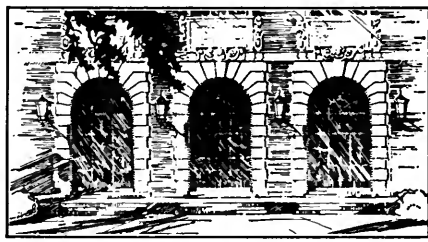




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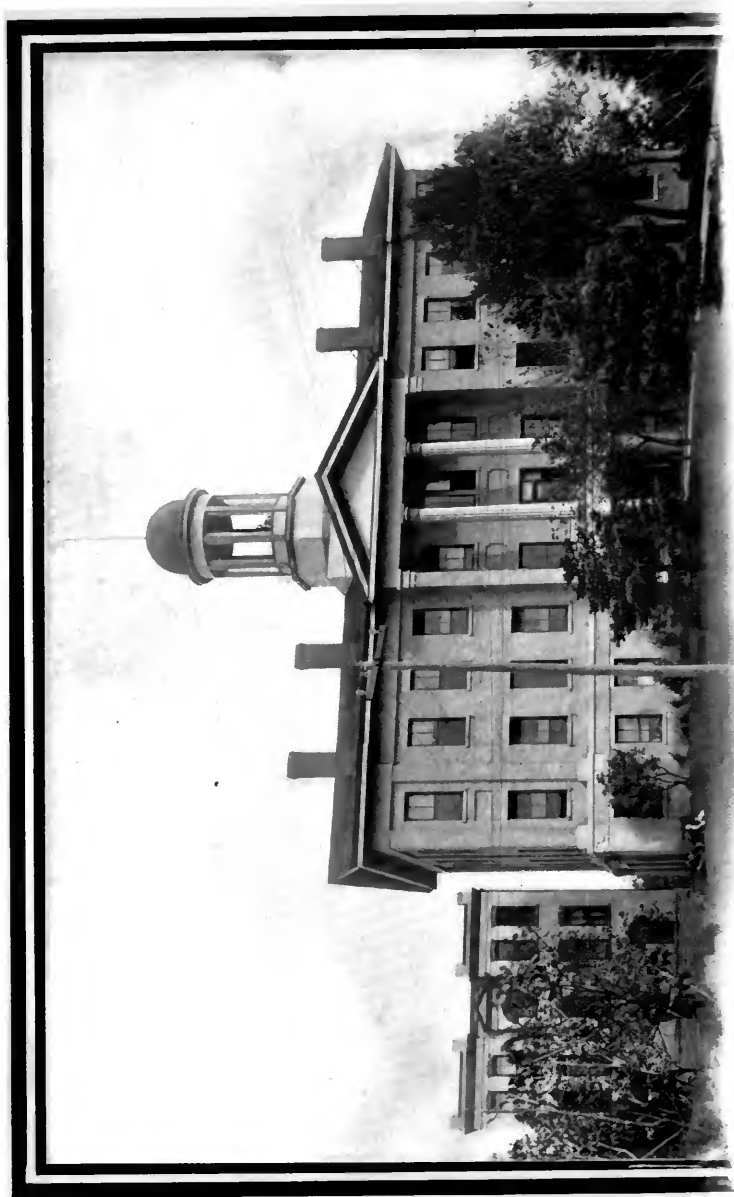












THE ELGIN ACADEMY  
Chartered 1839. Opened 1856. J. Quigley (Buffalo), Architect



A History  
of  
Elgin Academy  
of  
Northwestern University

By  
L. K. Becker



1906  
Published by the Academy



*All Heart Serv*

**To the Friends of  
Elgin Academy**

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PRINTED BY  
THE COURIER PUBLISHING COMPANY  
OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS  
JUNE, 1906

The design of this brief history is to preserve what appears to be of value for future harvests; to pay a tribute to character and to good work; to promote the joys of reunion and reminiscence and to bespeak continual love—as the years go on—for ‘the old school on the hill.’

‘We cannot buy with gold  
The old associations.’

H. K. B.

Elgin, June, 1906.

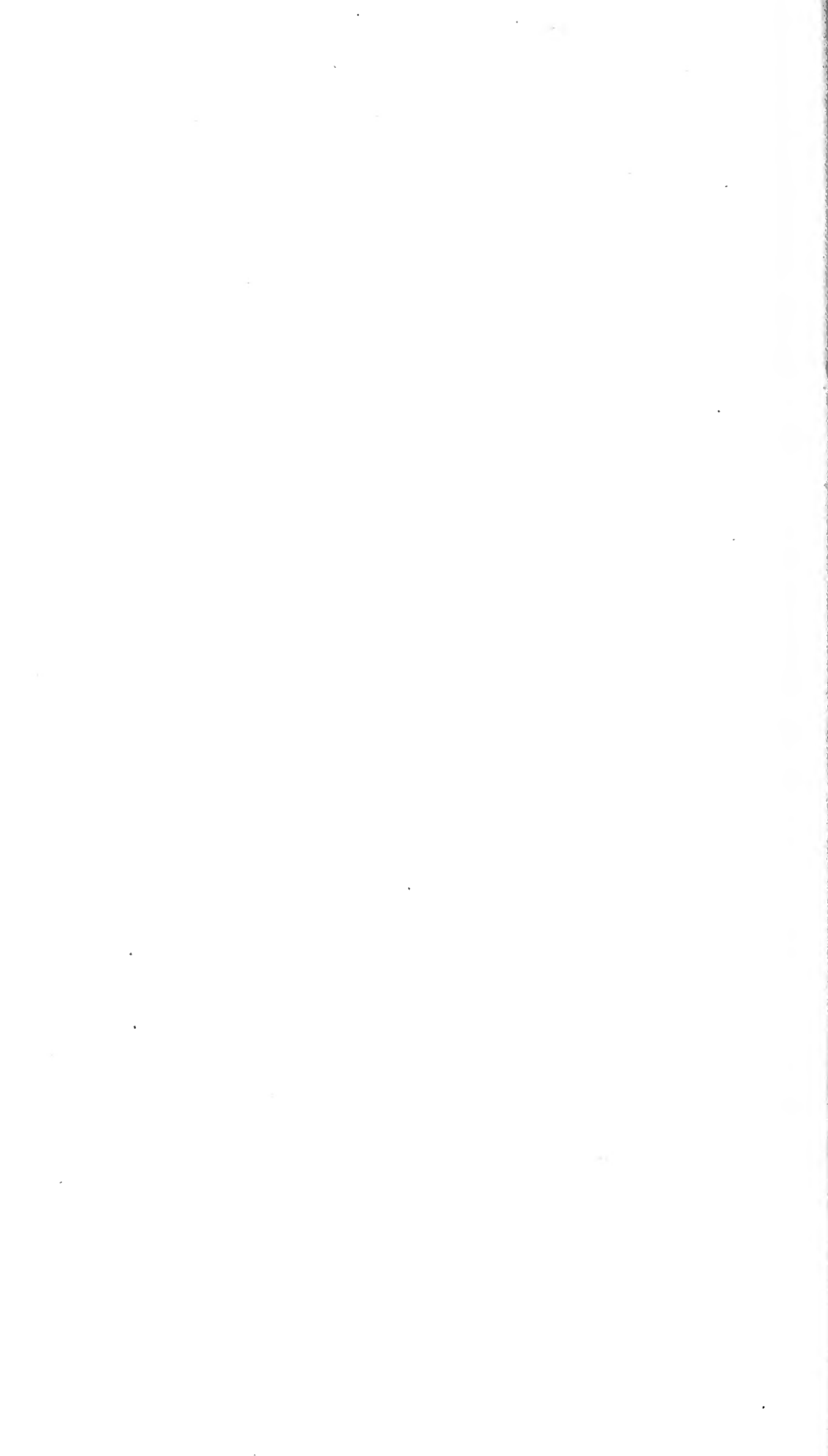


**M**Y ACKNOWLEDGMENTS are due to Gail Borden library for references; to the History of Elgin, 1835-1875, and to the History of Kane County I am indebted for some statistics. To those who have loaned letters, manuscripts and early Elgin newspapers I am especially grateful.

Professor Sleight has given me access to every possible avenue where records on historic matter available for my work might be found, beside furnishing much important material himself. I could not have woven the broken threads in my possession into even this brief and simple narrative without all these aids.

When the History of Elgin Academy was decided upon, appeals were made to friends and acquaintances, near and remote, for likenesses or photographs of its deceased or long-absent instructors and important directors. And it is owing to the prompt responses to the requests that it is possible to offer, to-day, this completely illustrated history. In its preparation, the cordial spirit of assistance has been an inspiration; therefore to all contributors and to each a thousand thanks.

L. K. BECKER.









MRS. L. K. BECKER  
Teacher in Elgin Academy, 1877-1895

## Mrs. L. K. Becker

**F**ITTING it is, at this Golden Jubilee of the Elgin Academy, that she whose pen illuminates these records of fifty years, should be one who, as instructor, was longest associated with the "Old School on the Hill." Fitting it is that she should be one whose general culture and literary gifts should have made for her a large place in the social and intellectual life of the "Watch City." Fitting it is that she should be one whose personal qualities, as teacher and friend, should have endeared her to hundreds of Elgin Academy's children, now eager to "rise up and call her blessed." In black and white, before me, are their many tributes of affection and gratitude. Says one, "If Mrs. Becker had taught but one year, she would still be remembered"; but it is a eighteen years' period of active service that makes the name of Mrs. L. K. Becker honored on the faculty list of the institution.

Mrs. Becker began her teaching when she was fifteen years old. Always a student, she secured her special training at the Albany (N. Y.) Normal College, where later she inaugurated the model primary department. This position she left to be married. In 1868 she came West and settled in Elgin, where she has ever since had her residence. Here for two years (1870 to 1872) she taught in the public schools, and for one year maintained a private school at her home. She entered Elgin Academy, to succeed Miss Kenyon, in 1877. Earnest, cheery, and sympathetic, she came, as one pupil expresses it, "into the school from a home and brought with her the home spirit—the mother spirit." To this "mother tutor," who reigned long as mistress of the east room, hundreds to-day turn in memory "with the veneration of worshippers and the gratitude of children."

"Her personal qualities, combined with her keen intuitive methods, made her a rare teacher," writes another. Versatile and accommodating, she taught various subjects, including the natural sciences,

## A Sketch of the Author

---

but her specialties were history and literature. So did she handle these favorite themes that her students write: "She brought the past very near to us and made it real, while, with her fine appreciation of literature, she laid its treasures before us and taught us to measure their worth." Many speak of her "happy manner of conducting a recitation," while others emphasize her "cheery morning greetings" or her informal chats on art themes or current topics of the day.

Then, too, these years of Mrs. Becker's service were years of struggle and change. It meant much, when others came and went, that one should be always "at home" to E. A.'s returning sons and daughters. It meant much to have, thus long and loyally associated, this faithful teacher, who held the school to its ideals and believed in its mission to this community. For instance, in 1891, when things looked dark for the old Academy, it was she who spoke the word of courage to the disheartened trustees, assembled for their annual meeting. Disregarding the suggestion, made by some, that she herself take the helm, she, with prophetic faith, assured the trustees that somewhere was a "strong young man with spirit as well as education, who would lift the institution out of its rut and thereby make his own reputation as well as that of the school." Such a young man was recommended to her by her son Keyes, at whose suggestion she invited to her home a favorite Lake Forest classmate. In Alfred G. Welch, whom she then introduced to Elgin and his great opportunity, her prediction was more than verified.

In 1895, the year after Mrs. Becker resigned her position as instructor, she was associated with the Academy as lecturer. Ever since, by voice and pen, she has shared her thoughts with a larger circle. And now that she, as historian, has once more closely linked her name with the dear old school and we read these records she has gathered with interest of head and heart, we can but echo the words of one of her E. A. boys: "Thank God for Mrs. Becker and the Elgin Academy!"

S. A. P.

The Elgin Academy, May 8, 1906.

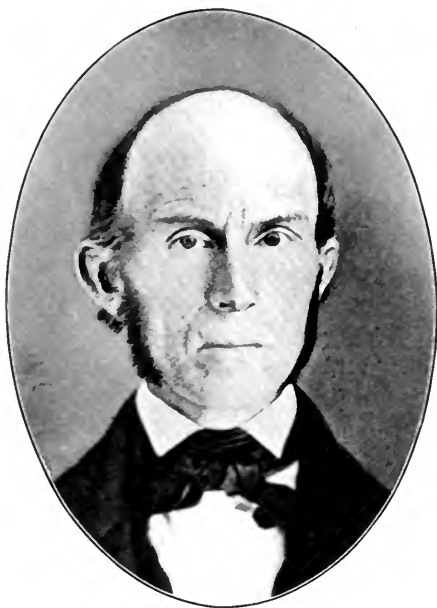


ELGIN ACADEMY IN 1856

Copied from a daguerreotype taken at about the present  
intersection of College and Division Streets







JAMES T. GIFFORD  
Founder of Elgin  
and  
Trustee of Elgin Academy  
1843-1850



## CHAPTER ONE

### Elgin 1835

**A**S there was an English Literature before there was an England, so there was an Elgin before there was a visible Elgin town, and it lay in the mind of James T. Gifford, still a young man, living in a small village in Yates county, New York. A brother, Mr. Hezekiah Gifford, moved by the spirit of adventure, made a journey to Illinois in 1834 and into that portion of the Fox River Valley from the site of Aurora to St. Charles. Charmed with the beauty of the region he returned to his home in Oneida County, but stopped on the way to see his brother, James, to whom he gave such a glowing account that from that hour the latter dreamed of a town all smiling and fair that should rise on the banks of the Fox. But being a practical man, Mr. Gifford weighed the reasons for and against removal to that almost unbroken wilderness. There were rich Government lands waiting for settlers; there were possibilities and there were the flutterings of ambition, ever ready, like a bird, to take wing for some more favored clime.

The decision being made, preparations at once were begun by James Gifford for a pilgrimage into the new Northwest to discover its available resources, and, unconsciously, to develop his own.

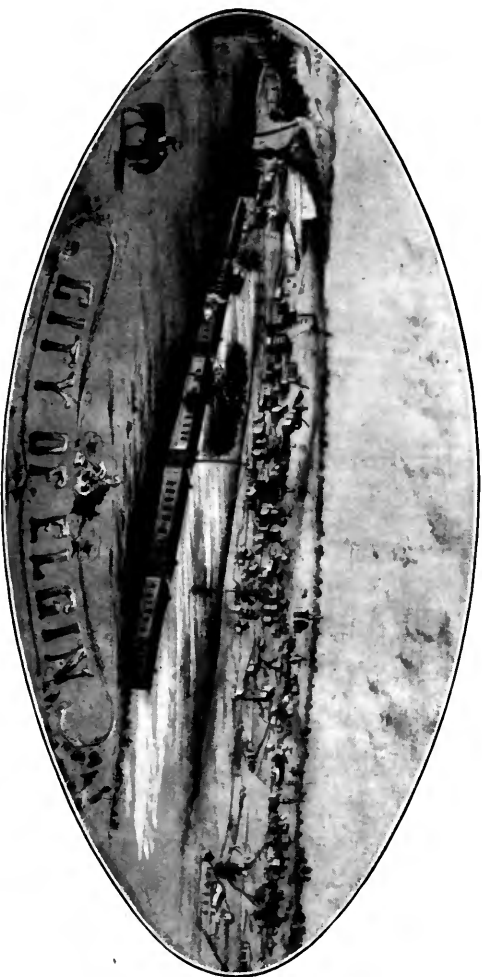
The two brothers, James T. and Hezekiah, had agreed to share in the toils and benefits incident to a settlement in the West and early in 1835, with a good team of horses, a lumber wagon of tools and necessaries, the advance was begun and the little party turned their faces Westward. Upon parting from his wife Mr. Gifford had announced that he would found a town somewhere in the Northwest, that it should have good water power, and that its name should be Elgin, in remembrance of his favorite melody in the hymn book.

The brothers drove all the way to Chicago, which they reached March 24th, in good condition, having rested from travel every

Sunday; invariably they had overtaken other travelers en route who had traveled all the time.

Chicago, in 1835, was a village of five hundred inhabitants and appeared to be sunk in the mud. Wisconsin was not yet a territory even, Illinois had been a State but a few years and the Black Hawk war was scarcely over. The face of the country was a map that showed but few points of civilized settlement, like far-off glimmering lights in an unknown region.

Learning that Milwaukee Bay was a promising site for occupation, the brothers left their wagon in Chicago and proceeded on horseback, in company with another traveler, to Milwaukee, where they discovered that all the land about was already claimed by earlier comers. Somewhat disappointed, the thought of the Fox River country occurred to both the men, and, having an opportunity to send their horses back to Chicago, they set out on foot to find the beautiful valley, through a region from which the Pottawatomies had but recently been removed, and where there were neither roads, inns, nor settlers along the way. A half-breed Indian gave them directions from the start how to reach Fox River, which he said was but a half day's tramp away. This they found to be true, as Fox River rises but a few miles southwest of Milwaukee and spends some distance in uniting with tributaries before it attains to its acknowledged importance and dignity; and even then flows many miles before its valley becomes what it is called, one of the most beautiful, as it is one of the most fertile valleys in the world. After following the river for some miles the Giffords came upon a lone Indian in a canoe whom they induced to take them across to the west bank which they wished to explore. They camped at night by an open fire and without blankets and with short rations. Three nights and as many days they journeyed along stream, meeting no sign of civilized life, fording creeks, experiencing a cold storm and going without food for nearly two days. But fortune favors the intrepid and there is always energy enough to carry forward a great enterprise, and so it proved. On April 2nd a white settler, at what is now Algonquin, welcomed the hardy Giffords to his cabin and his board and sent them forward on their quest after a night of refreshing repose.



THE CITY OF ELGIN PREVIOUS TO 1860

From a sketch made near Locust and South State Streets  
The large building with a dome, a little to the right in the distant back ground, is Elgin Academy



The last ten miles of their journey offered views that caused them frequently to pause to admire; but when they reached what is now the site of Elgin and halted to overlook what lay before and around them, each man felt that he had found what he sought—the promised land.

"Fair as a garden of the Lord," it looked to the eyes of the man that scanned the uplands and lowlands before him and recalled his dreams of months before. Nor is it strange that once again to his mind arose the vision of an Elgin with peaceful homes, the hum of wheels, of churches and schools, their bells mingling with the voices of children and all the sounds of busy life. It would not have been strange had this worn traveler voiced the song of praise and thanksgiving that dominated his spirit at the moment. Here within twenty-four hours were the stakes driven and the furrows ploughed that marked the beginning of our Elgin, one of the most picturesque and thriving towns of Illinois; far enough away from the now great city's maddening crowds not to suffer from their misdeeds or follies; but near enough to benefit from the advantages of the great Northwestern Metropolis.

In the small park between Villa and Prairie streets a rough fragment of rock marks the place where stood the log cabin of James T. Gifford in 1835. There he dwelt with his gentle wife and their five children for several years; and that humble cabin was the center of organization for the necessary departments of civil government, for church service, for school and for the demands of society.

The ideal pioneer is more or less of a patriarch. He has many attributes that belong to greatness. He must be fearless, full of resources, unwearied and undiscouraged; he must be always a leader, whether in advance or directing progress from the rear of the flock about him which is always more or less under his care. Mr. Gifford was like this, although no man was less arbitrary than he. Settlers rapidly followed the Giffords and claim succeeded claim on each side of the river. Most of these settlers were honest, capable, enterprising men, who brought beside young families, some household commodities, a few implements of husbandry, but little money. But the larger share of the pioneers of Elgin

## **The Board of Trustees in 1839**

### **PLATE ONE**

The Board of Trustees to whom the Old Charter was granted in 1839 was composed of

1. VINCENT S. LOVELL, 1839-1841
2. GENERAL GEORGE McCLURE, 1839-1861
3. LUTHER HERRICK, 1839-1854  
COLTON KNOX, 1839-1855  
REUBEN JENNE, 1839-1843  
SOLOMON HAMILTON, 1839-1855  
BURGESS TRUESDELL, 1839-1856

The likenesses of the two last named are shown in Plate 3.









PRINTED FROM AN OLD  
ETCHING

## **The Board of Trustees in 1854**

### **PLATE TWO**

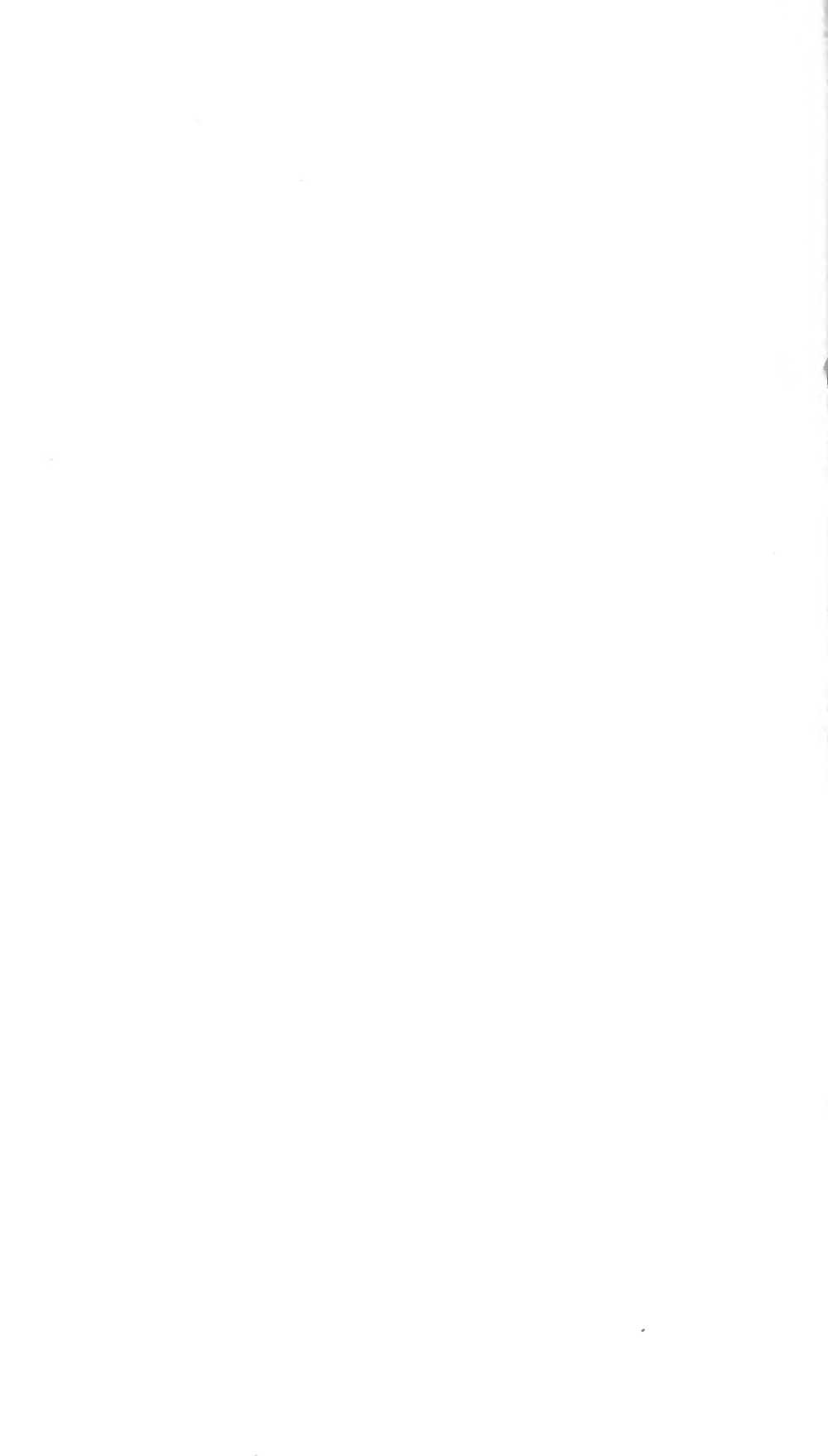
1. REV. ADONIRAM JUDSON JOSLYN, 1854-1868
2. HON. BENJAMIN W. RAYMOND, 1854-1883
3. JOSEPH TEFFT, M. D., President of Board, 1843-1888
4. WILLIAM C. KIMBALL, 1843-1875
5. JOHN HILL, 1854-1863

### **PLATE THREE**

1. HON. AUGUSTUS ADAMS, 1854-1857
2. BURGESS TRUESDELL, 1839-1856  
Secretary of Board, 1839-1854
3. ORLANDO DAVIDSON, 1854-1899
4. SOLOMON HAMILTON, 1839-1855
5. MORRIS C. TOWN, 1854-1892



PLATE TWO



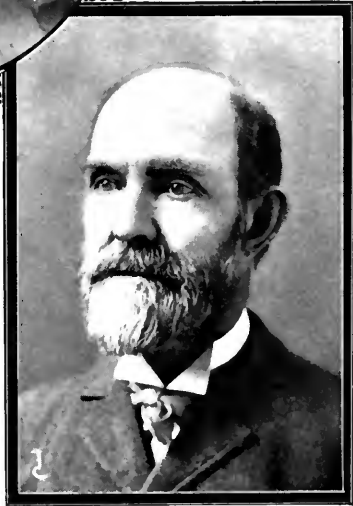
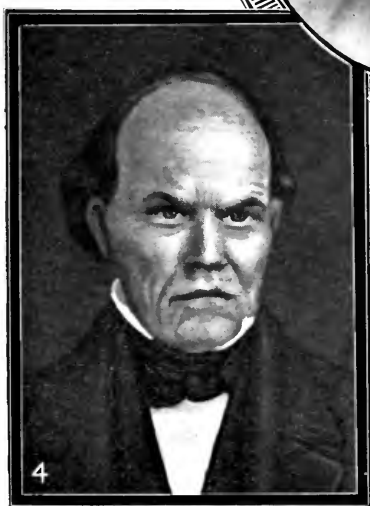
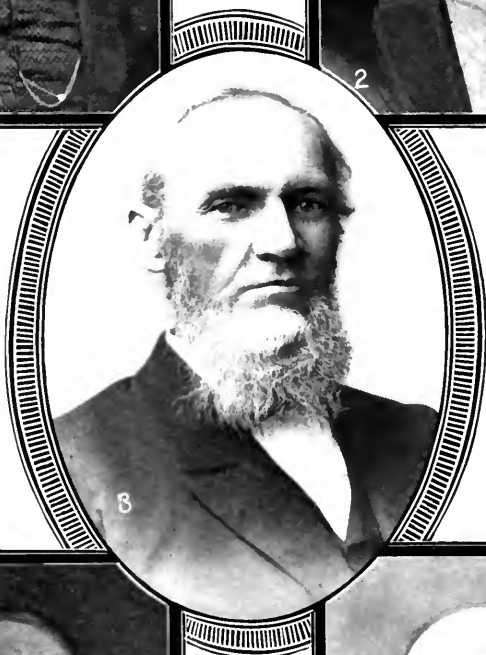


PLATE THREE



brought what is best for any community in whatever locality—character. They were men and women of decided opinions and strenuous habits, and usually willing to further the founding of school and church and local government. They came seeking homes, employment, competence and independence as outlined in our Republic. They believed in work. They found a virgin soil, much and exhausting toil, slow gains, the usual buffetings of human life and the trials of a new country. But notwithstanding these hindrances, there was not one of the new comers that did not cherish an ideal “for something better than he had known.” Thus, to the promotion of “everything good,” they gave, like the apostles of old, of what they had. In some instances they gave—themselves; that is, they gave their best thought, their confidence, their spirit, along with material aid, which is not seldom the test of faith. Pioneers they were who have left an impression not only on Elgin, but in it and through it; the impression of their own qualities. Today no toiler in the town, howsoever impoverished, is despised for any honest labor, nor is there any limit set to what position any one may attain in social circles; but a common sentiment of fairness and equality prevails, as though it were an expression still drawn from Elgin’s founder: “to deal justly, love mercy and walk humbly.”

Elgin is not the only instance of a city that has existed mentally before it became an established fact. And as for institutions, many have been carried in mind for long periods before they materialized; therefore it is not strange, from what has already been said, that the idea of an educational institution for Elgin should have occurred to more than one of the early citizens. It is evident that it was prominent in the mind of Mr. Gifford, for it was due to his efforts that a Board of Trustees was selected and a charter for an Elgin academy was obtained from the Illinois Legislature in 1839.

There were seven charter members, most of them in the prime of life; some of them vigorous in opinion, all of them settled in their convictions, which were nothing if not honest. These men were well chosen for the office to which they were called, for they

represented the varying shades of thought of the new community, upon a subject in which all were interested.

The first member, Solomon Hamilton, was by nature large and hospitable, intelligent and generous. He lived on the West Side from 1836 to 1856 upon the farm that he pre-empted from the government. No sooner had a roof covered his cabin than it was opened for religious service. Rev. Washington Wilcox preached there in December, 1836, the second Methodist sermon in the town. Mr. Hamilton was in sympathy with the educational idea and his name at the head of the list of those who applied for a charter was a guarantee of good faith. But of the seven men there were two who listened eagerly to the plan of Mr. Gifford and gave it cordial welcome—Burgess Truesdell and Vincent Lovell. Both were thoughtful, industrious citizens, who loved study, were fond of books and believed in education and progress. Mr. Truesdell was an enthusiastic and successful horticulturist, who had just set his new home in a projected garden which became the paradise of Elgin, and is still remembered as one remembers the features of a lovely departed friend. Mr. Lovell, a young Englishman, committed to the belief in the high destiny of the land of his adoption, had advanced views upon practical education. Without church relations he was, notwithstanding, a devout follower of the Master and reverent in his attitude toward all true religion.

Of the other members there was one who considered the subject as a suggestion of duty to the young in providing for their moral and religious training, whatever other instruction they might need. This brought out the church preferences of each one present, but the differences were satisfactorily adjusted by the agreement that high moral character was a safe foundation stone for the proposed institution; and this unity of spirit showed the recognition of the academy for the first time. Another member suggested co-education—girls should have the same courses of study as boys; perhaps, on account of his own daughters who appealed to him, but there was not a dissenting note to his proposition. General McClure, of the War of 1812, whose native discernment and good judgment had been emphasized by his military experience and worldly knowledge, stood for an institution of sound



LOUIS H. YARWOOD  
Trustee, 1863-1865  
Treasurer, 1864-1865



ELIJAH WILCOX  
Trustee, 1843-1854

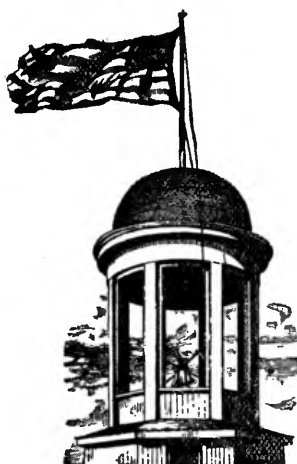


moral character and learning of high order. Thus were the provisions of the old charter of 1839 developed and the instrument obtained.

But the problem of existence, growing families and absorbing interests allowed the charter a slumber of four years.

In 1843 the old board was reorganized. Mr. Lovell had removed to Chicago. Mr. Jenne resigned. Mr. Gifford, Dr. Tefft, General Elijah Wilcox, Wm. C. Kimball and C. K. Anderson became new members.

Mr. Gifford was anxious to begin to erect an academy building at once and offered a site for it; but the subject had not yet taken root deep enough for a successful issue, and while the plan was being considered a popular clamor began for a union school. This naturally took precedence, and although two years elapsed before the "Old Brick" was begun and it was not opened until 1849, Elgin Academy was again retired to the land of dreams.



### **The First Faculty 1856**

1. ROBERT BLENKIRON, A. M., Principal  
Teacher of Ancient Languages and  
Higher Mathematics
2. MISS W. M. CAPRON  
Teacher of English Language and  
Literature
3. MISS CLARA EDGECOMBE  
Teacher of Primary Classes
4. JOHN B. NEWCOMB  
Teacher of Phonography (Shorthand),  
Natural Sciences, Penmanship and  
Normal Course



THE FIRST FACULTY 1856



Capital Stock, 50,000 Dollars,

OFFICE OF THE ELGIN & GENOA PLANK ROAD CO.

No. 128 Elgin, Ill. *January 15* 1868 *Four* Shares.

This Certifies, *That the above* *Company*

*entitled to Four* *Shares* in the Capital Stock of the  
~~ELGIN AND GENOA PLANK ROAD COMPANY~~ on which

*Twenty* *Dollars* on each Share have been paid.

*Said Shares are transferable on the Books of said Company, by*  
*his* *Attorney, on the surrender of this Certificate.*

*Charles J. Smith* *Joseph W. Smith*  
*Secretary.* *President.*

Journal Print, 107 Lake St., Chicago.

SHARES, FIFTY DOLLARS.

FACSIMILE OF ONE OF THE EARLY STOCK CERTIFICATES OF THE ELGIN ACADEMY

For many years the old stock book of the Elgin and Genoa Plank Road Company was utilized for an Academy Stock Book





## CHAPTER TWO

### The Northern Illinois College

**I**N 1848 the Northern Illinois College came knocking at Elgin's door through the Free-Will Baptists, who had a church here. Their little white round-towered meeting house stood on the ground of the present St. John's Church on the corner of Spring and Division streets.

The Directors of the proposed college were desirous of obtaining the most eligible location possible and they exercised the greatest care in its selection. No one has ever questioned their taste or wisdom in their choice of as beautiful a piece of land as the sun ever shone upon. It was purchased of Mr. P. J. Kimball, and without delay provisions were made for the building of a commodious college structure.

Upon the day when the corner-stone of the edifice was to be laid, a procession of Elgin citizens with friends and the directors of the college and their guests, preceded by a band of five instruments, marched, from the meeting house mentioned, in a straight line, with no intervening streets or buildings, to the grounds on the hill. Many and enthusiastic were the comments of the visitors upon the beauty and natural advantages of the site.

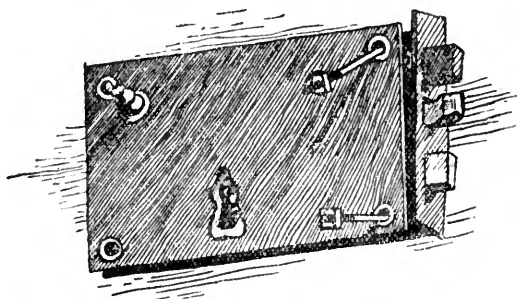
An impressive ceremonial with the usual addresses followed and there was great rejoicing over this promising institution for the education of youth in this new region. An eye witness reports that after the exercises a large number of friends and several clergymen took dinner with Rev. N. C. Clark, one of the most hospitable of men to ideas, no less than to people. The celebration was considered to have been a fine thing for Elgin, and a little pardonable pride arose in the vicinity, along with the first story of the college that was freighted with so many hopes.

But when the first story stood firm and strong on its foundations—there it rested. Its uprights and scaffolding, like guards on duty beyond their term of enlistment, took on a weather-stained and

weary look that came to be a continual appeal for rescue from destruction. For several years these mute entreaties were in vain and College Hill, as it was called, was the resort of stray bovine, the rendezvous of curious boys and strange wanderers. Finally faint whisperings took the shape of warnings, "to keep away from an uncanny spot" and it was left to the solitude and silence of nature. Nevertheless changes were at work; the good seed, long sown for academy and college, began to show its promise of fruitage.

It was in the year of 1854 that Elgin elected to be a city. There were three thousand and seven hundred inhabitants, though a good many early residents and friends, and Mr. Gifford among the number, had joined the silent majority.

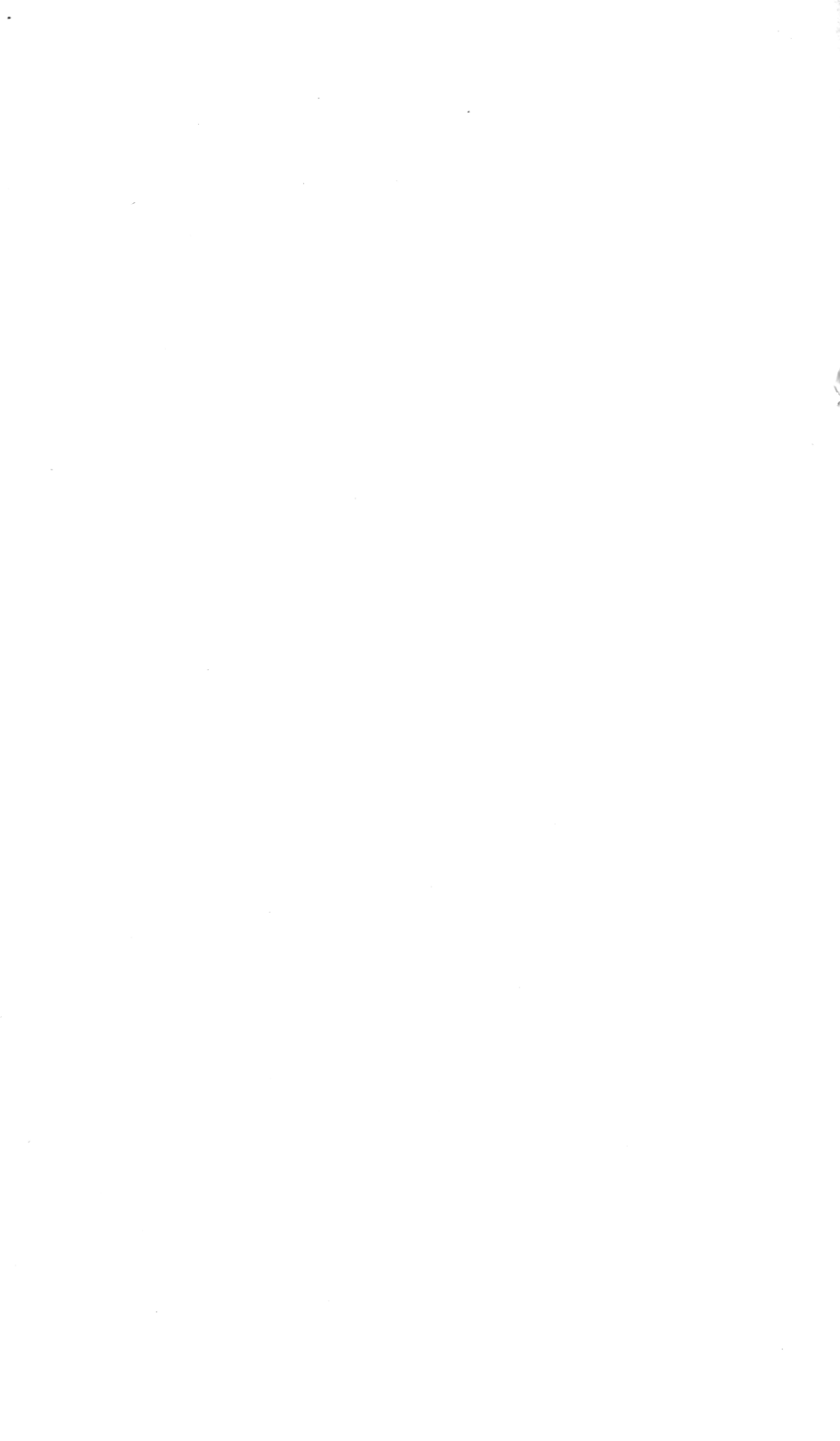
Dr. Joseph Tefft was Elgin's first Mayor. And as one of olden time looked over his domain to see what was toward or untoward approaching, the Mayor looked abroad to see what might be employed with advantage to the corporation over which he presided. He could discern in many directions moving trains of merchandise and treasure, followed by wisdom and renown and bound to enrich the cities to which they came. He remembered the man that had sought by every means in his power all these things for the town that he had founded and loved, to the end that it might grow and flourish, do its work in the world, and bring honor and respect and good to all its people. And the Mayor thought of these things and of the college on the hill, desolate and forlorn; and he took counsel of some of the strong men of the city and they agreed with him what ought to be done to develop the new city in all directions.

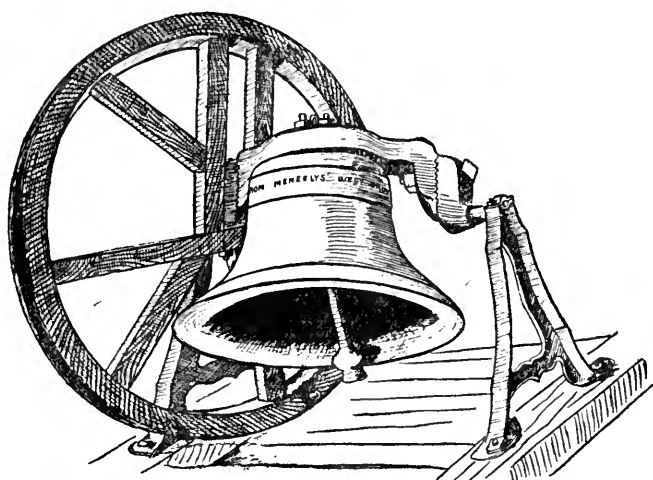


YE OLDE ACADEMIE LOCK



HENRY SHERMAN  
Trustee, 1855-1893





THE ACADEMY BELL

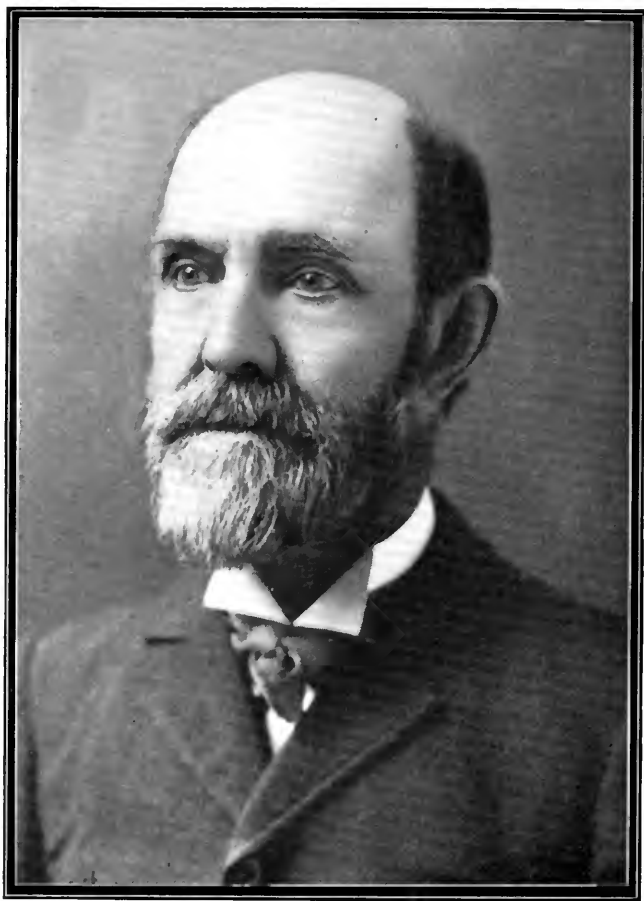
Hung in the dome in the Spring of 1857

It bears the inscription:

"From Meneelys', West Troy, N. Y., 1855"







MORRIS C. TOWN  
Trustee, 1854-1892  
Treasurer, 1865



## CHAPTER THREE

### *The Rise of the Academy*

ON AUGUST 12th of the year 1854, mentioned in the last chapter, a meeting of the Trustees was called and for the third time they took up the deferred subject of an educational institution for the youth of Elgin. Much interest was shown. Dr. Tefft was made President of the board, new members were elected to fill vacancies and so strong a sentiment prevailed that the President in acknowledging his obligation for his election, affirmed: "We must have the Academy, for Elgin needs it, and I promise you, gentlemen, to exert every energy to establish and maintain it." How well he kept his promise is recorded in his thirty-three years of service.

A committee was appointed to negotiate with the directors of the defunct Illinois College for a transfer of their property in Elgin, to the Trustees of the Academy. The arrangement was not completed until the following year when, upon the payment of \$1,300 full possession was given, although about \$2,000 remained to be paid at intervals.

The financial question was the vital one now, and the Trustees, being an incorporated body by the terms of their charter of 1839, met it boldly but simply. They opened subscription books for the sale of Academy stock at \$50 per share, advertising the same with the announcement that it was in the interest of Elgin, city and town.

It is one thing to make a proposition to a community, it is quite another thing to convince it that the presented views are sound; but it is the triumph of reason and speech to bring forth for any cause, the bone and sinews of war in hard earned dollars. The Trustees were an advance guard, convinced of the advantages in the proposed Academy for Elgin, but they sought an endorsement in a popular demonstration which they soon received.

1. The suggestion of a scholarly education appealed to a large number of parents who said: "Have we not come West in order to give our children a chance?"

2. The idea of benefit to trade and business had its weight; also that of the desirable reputation that an institution of learning might confer upon the town. Nor was the advantage overlooked of a school that might discover near home the timber for lawyers and doctors and ministers. But after all, most people held the main thought of their ideals, the benefits of training which must open the door to opportunities for broader living, wider comprehension and greater usefulness. The beneficent plans for Elgin by its founder were thus reflected in the hearts of the citizens and they came forward, took Academy stock and paid at once into the hands of the Trustees \$7,800. And the long deferred edifice on College Hill arose—simple, honest, strong, the expression of the thought for highest good and committed to its promulgation.

The substantial three-story building of Dundee brick, 40x100 feet in dimension, allowed for lofty walls and commodious rooms, generously lighted. The excellent designs of the architect of the Northern Illinois College, Mr. J. —. Quigley of Buffalo, N. Y., were well carried out in stone, brick and wood by Mr. Joshua Wilber and Mr. E. F. Reeves, both of Elgin, and this building is to-day a standing testimonial of the conscientious work of its builders.

The opening of the Academy to students was announced for December 1, 1856, and the date was eagerly anticipated. In the meantime, 1855, an amendment had been obtained to the charter of 1839 more fully stating the purpose of the institution, its corporate and other powers named and invested in its Trustees and giving them authority to bestow diplomas upon students completing the different courses of study.

The provision of the charter for manual training had for its object the recognition of hand training as a factor in education for the most useful life.

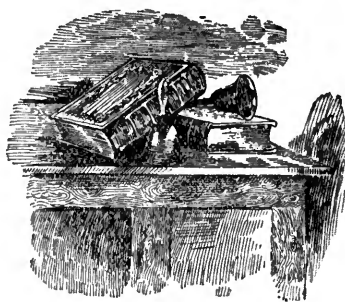
Regarding religious denominations and faith, it was decided by the first Board of Trustees to follow the Constitution of the United States and require no particular profession of faith either of instructors or of students.



INCREASE C. BOSWORTH  
Trustee, 1868-1888



The clearness of the objects stated, the high character of the proposed instruction, and the great freedom from restrictions indicate the liberal spirit which has ever been a distinctive feature of the Academy.

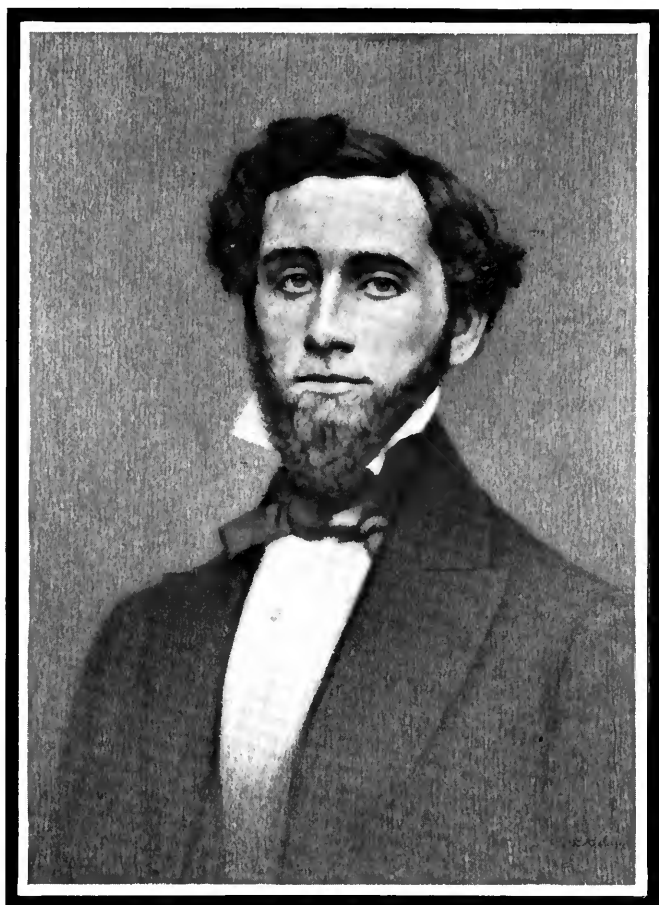


THE OLD BIBLES PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS  
IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE FIRST TERM OF SCHOOL  
IN 1856 AND 1857

The Call Bells originally used in the  
East and West Rooms







ROBERT BLENKIRON, A. M.  
(A. B., Christ's College, Cambridge)  
Principal, 1856-1858, and  
Spring Term, 1860



## CHAPTER FOUR

### *The Launching of the Craft*

**P**ROFESSOR ROBERT BLENKIRON, A. B., Christ College, Cambridge, England, was engaged as head master with four able assistants to direct the new enterprise in its untried waters.

Dr. Tefft, Mr. Davidson, the new faculty, and a few other friends assembled at the academy on the appointed morning, anxious to see the start. Everything had a most favorable outlook. There were the fine looking officers and the throng of young folks with whom they were to make the voyage of the year. The chart explained by President Tefft indicated auspicious weather, an open channel and fair sailing. The ports where stops were to be made, he said, could be discerned in the distance, even on that morning. Some glimpses of those ports have never been entirely lost; though fogs and clouds and head-winds have often made the sailing of the Academy ship perilous, nevertheless it may truly be said that the main course has never been changed—it has always been near the open channel, if not in it.

Professor Blenkiron was thoroughly prepared for his profession, not alone by his high training, but by his natural qualities also. His love for his chosen work and his charming personality combined with all these qualifications to make a principal that left nothing to be desired.

The first floor of the east wing was occupied by the family of the principal, as has been the custom of most principals; though for years there were few conveniences there for domestic life. West hall had rooms on either side which were rented to students; some of these apartments were partially furnished. This hall was the nearest approach to a dormitory that the Academy ever possessed. The entire second floor was for school uses. In the pleasant west room were the older students under the supervision

of the principal; in the pleasant east room, younger pupils were in charge of the preceptress. The two recitation rooms were occupied respectively by the assistants and their classes. The large open corridor opening upon the balcony became a convenient lobby for frequent resort of the students and visitors upon occasion. The third floor was an unbroken apartment, except for its innumerable windows and the enclosed stairway to the attic and the belfry, where boys were fain to climb and occasional investigators also, who, if they found nothing else, were amply paid by the view of Elgin and the country which flanks it, spread like a glorious picture at their feet.

In these primitive days there were neither storm-doors nor vestibules, neither blinds nor even shades for the windows of the school-rooms where the sun entered at will. Illumination at night came from candles or from fluid lamps, happily forgotten now, and the rooms—great and small, knew only the heat of stoves for many years. As to water, a deep well furnished what was required for the thirsty, and for all who were domiciled on the grounds.

There were no real courses of study. But nearly every course and everything in it was at the mercy of the pupil's selection. The trained master knew how to lead these young minds toward the waiting fountains of knowledge; was it not for this he had come?

The character and moral tone of the school was inaugurated on its first day, and it has lost nothing in fifty years. The first explanation of the educational plans and of their extent and the provisions of the trustees for a liberal training needed no repetition. Work began at once, incisive and direct. The machinery moved without a hitch; barriers and hindrances that had loomed like frowning batteries fell away and months slipped along almost like a dream. The influence of the Academy during its first year inspired at least a few of its pupils with a love for learning and all with respect for it.

A feature of good academies is the earnestness of their students, and Elgin Academy is no exception in this particular. School is like life in a small world: "the rich and the poor, the high and the low, they meet together" and who can say which of these will prevail? No school has a monopoly of either dullness or brilliance;



JAMES SYLLA, A. M.  
Principal, 1858 until Spring Term 1860



but there are few schools without a dunce. Thousands of students have been trained in Elgin Academy who have gone out and have filled stations of responsibility and trust, reflecting credit upon their trainers and their school. In the year 1857 occurred the great financial crisis of the country, which reached even to the towns along the Fox river. Money was scarce and hard to get, but fortunately abundant harvests made the necessaries of life ample. Never were exchanges of produce and merchandise more satisfactorily accomplished than in 1857. Some money was requisite, however, for the new educational enterprise, and early in the year 1858 the trustees found it an unavoidable necessity to make a loan of \$2,000 for its benefit. The first cloud on the mental horizon of the Academy appeared at the close of the school year in the resignation of Professor Blenkiron. The threatening condition of his health compelled him to consign to other hands the charge he had assumed. It was a bitter trial to him and a grievous one to those students who loved him and have adored his memory with the enduring affection of their lives.

In September, 1858, Mr. James Sylla, A. B., stepped from the position of first assistant of the year before to that of principal. By his side stood his able partner, Mrs. Sylla, known for the two preceding years as Miss Capron, the popular preceptress. Mr. Sylla, son of an Elgin citizen, was educated at Galesburg, Illinois, and Rochester, N. Y. He was well prepared for professional teaching, and was of pleasing manners and address. His influence was that of a high-minded Christian gentleman. He was an excellent classical scholar, but very fond of all good literature and made it a feature of the school to frequently read, himself, or have read choice selections of prose and poetry for general benefit. In point of numbers the school was small. The change in principals had affected it and the first enthusiasm had partially worn off. The Syllas introduced physical exercises with good results. German was a favorite study with a native German teacher. The general tone of the institution was good without being enthusiastic. Early in 1860 the Chicago University of that day called Mr. Sylla to its staff of instructors and he left at the close of the winter term. Mr. Blenkiron, who was still in the city, was able to complete the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Braden, from school and college in eastern Ohio, came in 1860.

An unsettled condition of thought upon vital questions prevailed in many minds hitherto unaccustomed to thought, and produced a restlessness that affected the whole country and held it in the sickness of suspense.

The Academy opened less propitiously that year in September than had been hoped. The trustees insisted upon "the maintenance of a school of high order," but the enthusiasm of 1856 seemed to have passed, the public schools had become more popular and it was evident there was a greater demand for the three Rs than for ancient languages. Beside, the spirit of scholastic energy, so dear to the ambitious teacher, was continually worn away by absences, lack of interest, or untoward circumstances. Tuitions were paid slowly, gains were small and cares were oppressive; but yet the school went on, orderly, steadily. Rules and orders marked the hours with precision. And then came the November election of Lincoln. Nearly everything else was forgotten, almost to breathe, and the very air seemed full of threats of impending doom, though North and South waited, like Caesar's friends, for the early days of March, 1861. And then, when inauguration day was past, there was a shot that seemed to shake the universe and to strike at every heart.

The Union, beloved and adored, idol of our people, was rent and torn and the broken fragments, as they fell, carried ruin with them. It is an "over true tale" and the Academy knows it by heart.

The challenge of Sumter's gun woke more than echoes in Fox River Valley. Men and boys sprang into line and marched away to meet and answer with their lives, "the foes of our own household." Among these first volunteers of April 15, 1861, were some of the boys of the Academy. Their names may be seen in the Roll of Honor. A list for many a day hung on the north wall of the west room. Mr. Braden would fain have joined the young patriots and have shared their fate, but the Trustees believed that he would serve honor and duty more by remaining at his post than by leav-



CLARK BRADEN, A. B.  
Principal, 1860-1863





ing it to go to war. And he acquiesced. There were sons and daughters in the school soon to put in practice the lessons they were learning and they looked to him for assistance which he could not refuse.

It was at this time, when large and frequent public meetings denoted interest in the fortunes of the war, that it was discovered that Academy Hall was the most capacious of any in the town, and thither many of the crowds went, especially when some popular speaker was to be heard. Carl Schurz, who has just passed away, gave an address in Academy Hall during Lincoln's campaign in '60. It occurred in the afternoon, and he was introduced by his fellow countryman, Dr. C. A. Jaeger of Elgin, who is still in full remembrance of the event. There, too, were held the exhibitions, reunions and festivals of the school. Upon one of these occasions a conspicuous evergreen motto, high upon the wall, met the eyes, bearing the legend: "It will be pleasant to have remembered these things."

The old hall was a suitable place for scholastic eloquence, and it has witnessed many moving scenes of expression "taken from life," and rendered so true to nature that they still haunt the memory of many an old student.

It is interesting to look over the first catalogue of the Academy, '56-'63, published by Mr. Braden. There, two courses of study are given—viz.: the Scientific, divided into the Preparatory, two years; and the Academic, four years.

The Classical, divided also into the Preparatory, two years; and the Academic, three years.

Students completing either of the courses were to receive diplomas which would admit them to the Junior year of any college in the West. These courses of study were announced for 1863, but up to that time regular courses of study in the school had been unknown. Mr. Braden, like his predecessors, taught Latin, Greek and higher mathematics to those who demanded them.

The estimate of expenses for a student one year at the Academy are worthy of note. Thus: Board, tuition, fuel and light in the Academy, \$50-\$75. Tuition, with board, etc., outside the Academy, \$75-\$100.

These conditions no longer exist. They belong to the good old times.

The President's proclamation of emancipation January 1, 1863, and the fall of Vicksburg on July 4 mark the year as a memorable one. The war was still on and Elgin continued to give to its insatiable demands her blood and treasure.

In September, 1863, Mr. C. C. Wheeler, with his cultivated and charming wife, came from Central New York, where they had been very successful teachers, and they were welcomed and duly installed as principals of the Academy.

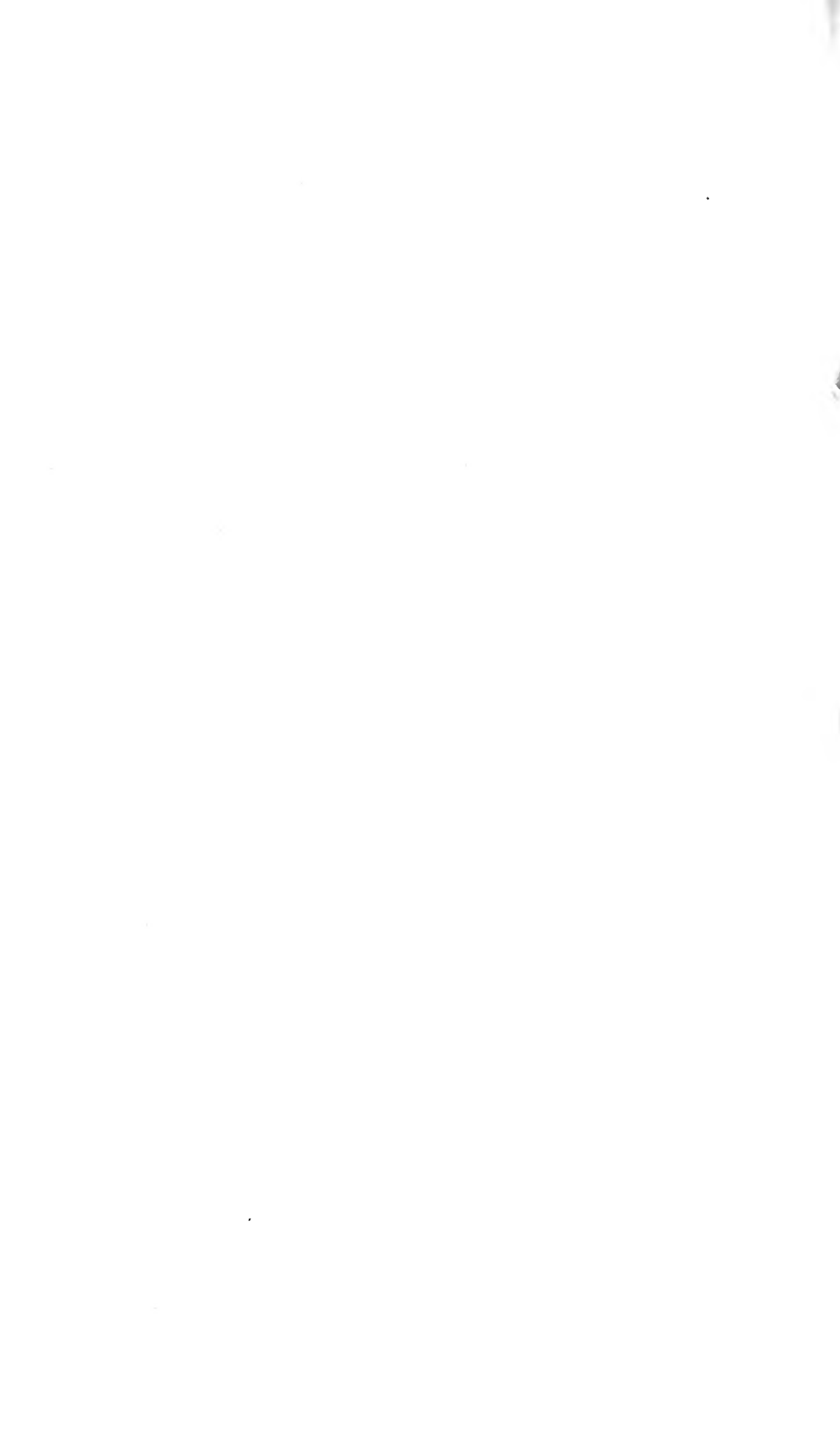
The financial depression that had been so unyielding relaxed and the number of students greatly increased. Instruction in English studies was most in demand. Tuitions are quoted at \$5.50, \$7.50 and \$9.00 per term. Mr. Wheeler endeavored to classify the school into regular work, but he was only partially successful. He was an able instructor and the institution was spoken of as one of high order. Mrs. Wheeler exerted a great influence both by her personal manners and her well-trained mind, and the fine quality of her work is still remembered. But the spirit of change was abroad and its silent forces could not be stayed. Early in 1864 came the first whisperings of that enterprise, which developed into an establishment world-known, the National Watch Company. The Borden Condensing factory quietly entered Elgin in this year and Elgin has benefited from both.

Although the school at the Academy continued without interruption, its income from tuitions and rentals was insufficient for its demands. An inside view, obtained not from records but from personal information, shows that but for the personal supervision and fostering care of President Tefft, aided by the Trustees, the institution must have closed its doors. But the good doctor believed in it and he labored for it as one does for a dependent child.

One day the Academy was advertised for sale to satisfy a mortgage that would not be appeased without sacrifice. Stockholders with unpaid subscriptions were pressed in vain for dues. A postponement of the sale was arranged and most strenuous efforts made to pay the debt, which grew no smaller. The city of Elgin agreed to take \$4,000 of Academy stock under certain conditions,



C. C. WHEELER, A. B., A. M.  
Principal, 1863 to Spring Term 1865





I. H. NUTTING, M. D.  
Principal, Spring Term, 1865, and Fall Term, 1866



which were granted; but time passed and the stock certificates for eighty shares still remained unclaimed.

By the President's proclamation, the Thanksgiving day of 1864 was made a national one, and has been so observed since. It was full of thanks upon this occasion on account of the re-election of Lincoln for President.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler departed, and Dr. J. H. Nutting, a Dartmouth man from Andover, N. H., in the spring of '65 took up the sceptre they laid down. Could he have remained long enough he would have left more than an impression, for, it is said, he was a natural language teacher and he is credited with using a grammar, in his classes, of which he was the author.

But ere the leaves had fallen his work was done and his wife and children journeyed sadly back to the granite hills they had left a few months before with promising hopes. The death of Dr. Nutting is the only one that has ever occurred in the Academy building during these fifty years. Mr. W. H. Brydges, Dr. Nutting's able assistant, completed the year '65 and also the spring and summer terms of 1866.

Professor Brydges, citizen of Elgin, soldier of his country and instructor of youth, needs neither introduction nor eulogy from the pen of any contemporary, for his sterling characteristics are known not to have changed or waned in his many years of labor. His administrations have been marked by their high standards.

The war was practically over and nature had begun her work of softening the furrows that marred the land where strife had been, and the people, in the face of bitter sorrow, took up their burdens and readjusted them and began to toil onward; when, as at the sound of doom, every heart stood still, over the news of the assassination of Lincoln. The war was indeed over, but its cost for many a year—even yet, must rise before us with its haunting memories, "lest we forget, lest we forget."

Various events varied the monotony of life in Elgin in 1866. The bridge that crossed the Fox was swept away by flood. The Young Men's Christian Association of Elgin was organized. Watch-making began in the new building just completed, and the Board of Trustees of Elgin Academy received an offer of \$6,000 for the

building and grounds. The offer was declined and Mr. B. G. Cilley, B. A., a cultivated gentleman from New Hampshire, was engaged to administer the educational affairs of the Academy according to the usual instructions.

The Board of Trustees sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. A. J. Waldron, who had been one of the first stockholders, a firm supporter and a valuable friend of the Academy.

Mr. Cilley had the reputation of being a thorough scholar, and he made great efforts while here to arrange courses of study that would be practicable and also satisfactory. At the close of the year the President bestowed six certificates upon six students who had completed certain work.

The administrations of Dr. Nutting and of Professor Cilley were so brief there is but a line required to tell what is remembered of either or both of them; they appear like shadowy forms in a picture. Professor Cilley resigned on account of illness and returned to his old home and died in a few weeks.

The Academy was thus again subject to change. The Board met and passed the following resolution: "In view of the indebtedness of the town of Elgin for soldiers' bounties and for the expense of a new bridge, the Trustees of Elgin Academy deem it inexpedient for the city to purchase Academy stock and they withdraw their stock proposition made last year to the Council."

The Board had borrowed the money at high rate to satisfy the mortgage two years before, but they were citizens and willing to save the honor as well as the credit of Elgin.

Having drawn so frequently on the East for principals, it was thought suitable to select one nearer home; accordingly Professor A. S. Barry, who had long been a teacher, and recently teacher and superintendent in St. Charles, came from there to take charge of the Academy in 1867. Mrs. Barry was assistant. The school was under their direction for three years. It was during Professor Barry's administration that the plan was considered of combining the public schools and the Academy for mutual benefit, but the idea was never carried out. At that time the systems of teaching in each were dissimilar and at present each has its own field of work; but surely there need be no rivalry between the public





WILLIAM H. BRYDGES  
Principal, Winter and Spring Terms  
of 1866





B. G. CILLEY, A. B.  
Principal, 1866-1867



school and an academy except a healthy one. Prof. Barry took very practical views of education, preferring the English to classical studies, as being more directly useful and at hand. He was a strong man in his ideas and positive in their expression. He had succeeded so well in St. Charles that a number of his pupils there followed him to Elgin Academy, and he is still remembered as a forcible instructor.

By 1870 the whole country had taken on new life. The population had reached and passed the 5,000 mark. The city limits had been extended toward the east and the south. New enterprises were sought, important buildings erected, and business was flourishing. The new industries drew attention from outside and there were newcomers seeking employment and others changing their occupation.

Professor Barry left the Academy to engage in other fields of labor. Regarding his work, one of his old students pays him this tribute: "There are many who know the value of the years spent under Mr. Barry's instruction and who are ever ready to testify that the lessons of promptness, respect for law and order and the faithful fulfillment of duties then taught have been a strengthening influence and help through life."

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sears came to the Academy from highly successful work in southern Ohio, bringing with them unusual equipment in experience, beside their educational attainments, and an encouraging confidence in good hard work of which they had an abundance at hand.

The building needed changes and repairs; there was woeful lack of equipment for instruction and for the comfort of both students and teachers. The trustees made new exertions to meet these requirements, and gradually they were accomplished, with the unfailing help of the principals.

It is inevitable that dynasties partake of the nature of their rulers; especially in the kingdom of a school. Some innovations were made, but with benefit to the school, which was held as rigidly as possible to regular courses of study: Preparatory, Normal, English, Classical, Latin, Scientific, College Preparatory and Business—enough for all, surely.

The school law of 1872 required public school teachers to be examined in the elements of the natural sciences; in Physiology and in the Laws of Health, beside the common English branches. These were added as special studies to the Normal Course and brought to the Academy a large number of teachers, who prepared themselves to disseminate their acquired knowledge in the schools of Illinois. Young men availed themselves of advantages adapted to their wants and applied themselves commendably to necessary subjects. The Academy was crowded to its doors. More than two hundred and fifty students were taken care of at a time and were well taught by the principal and his assistants. The first bona-fide diplomas issued to a regular class of the institution were bestowed in 1874 and great was the joy of the recipients. The Academy president beamed with satisfaction upon the occasion, for his ideal of a school of "a high order" was being realized by this achievement. Mr. Lewis Skinner completed the course of study in 1873 and received the first diploma of Elgin Academy bearing that date, but the first regular class obtained them in 1874. Academy Hall was divided and fitted for a school room, called the ungraded department, where the overflow was taken care of by an especial teacher.

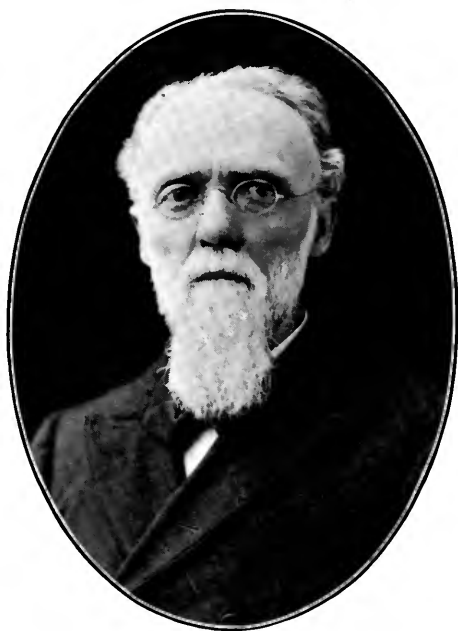
The war had given new interest to U. S. History and to our Civil Government, then, as now, under particular consideration, and these subjects were not unwelcome ones to those soon to become citizens of our Republic. English Literature was introduced as a senior study and Botany classes in their season were filled with enthusiastic workers. The drill in ordinary English studies was thorough and earnest, while the students were encouraged to take up a course leading to a college training as giving the most satisfactory discipline to the mind, though not indispensable. Each year a larger class was graduated, of young people with some training for the duties of life. Graduation day seemed like an event in the community, when such annuals were less frequent than now. There was discernible, too, a spirit among the students which rejoiced many a heart. A spirit of loving and giving. Perhaps it had been influenced by the observance of "Class Day" which still lives, and the "Tree Day" which resulted in many memorials that have withstood the frost and the drouth



ALFRED S. BARRY  
Principal, 1867-1869







REV. ALEXANDER GIBSON WILSON, D. D.  
Principal, 1881-1883



and now furnish shade and variety to old friends or new in common hospitality. There came to be an atmosphere of conscious dignity about the building as though it stood for high ideals that at last were known.

After eleven years of service, Professor and Mrs Sears, deeply regretted, withdrew, leaving the "school on the hill" in a prosperous condition. The old debt was paid, building and grounds improved, and the trustees more than gratified.

Elgin had advanced, too, in the past eleven years, in population (now 8,000), in ideas and in enterprise. The public schools had moved with the times; better buildings, more system and greater efficiency were apparent everywhere. New churches, too, had risen with the increasing responsibilities of the city, as if to keep abreast with its moral and religious obligation to humanity. The Gail Borden Library (the town library) came offering to every resident of the town a liberal education, practically free.

In 1881 Alexander G. Wilson, D. D., laid his hand on the helm of the Academy ship with a firm grasp; all sails were set and there was every indication of good weather. The Doctor had a bright and interesting family that have grown up and are fulfilling their promise of good work in the world. Able, educated and experienced, Dr. Wilson seemed intended for the head of an institution of learning. The spirit of earnest purpose was never better among the students than at this time. He loved them, as he loved every human being, and they respected him. Good work was done in the school, but, perhaps, the strongest impression of Dr. Wilson's teaching was from his life and example. He knew how to be forcible without violence and to condemn without anger, though he made himself understood. He was invariably serene, dignified and gracious. The excellent courses of study of the preceding instructors were not all demanded; numbers had fallen off; some from the change of teachers, some from illness and some from other causes. For the first time a real primary department was inaugurated and for several years was continued.

Dr. Wilson's rule was of only two years duration. It was not marked by enthusiasm, but by steady work and excellent feeling

## **The Sundial**

RESET BY THE CLASS OF 1900

"A sundial manufactured in London, England, presented to me by Mr. William Frazer, set up in the front campus, I hereby transfer to you as the Trustees of the Academy."

From the report of Alexander G. Wilson, Principal, to the Trustees of the Academy, dated August 10, 1883.





among teachers and pupils. He was called to Lake Forest Academy and another reigned in his stead.

In 1883 Professor J. Adolph Schmitz, A. M., German by birth, American by residence and education, stepped into the vacancy made by Dr. Wilson's departure.

The new professor was committed from the first to the idea of an endowment for the Academy. His ideal of the Institution was fine, and it was true that it was difficult to meet all demands for improvements with the income from tuitions. And the Trustees, nothing loath, were glad to have any plan tried that would accomplish the desired ends. Some personal efforts were made and small sums realized, but nothing commensurate with the desired \$50,000.

Two excellent friends of the Institution and members of the Board of Trustees passed away in the year '83, Mr. B. W. Raymond and Mr. Wm. G. Hubbard, members hard to replace.

The study of German received an impetus from the principal, and the classics did not languish. Great interest was taken in the literary societies of the school under Prof. Schmitz. One of these, called the Ready Wits, from a combination of the first word and the initials of the second, was composed of the young gentlemen of the school, some of whom were clever debaters and ready speakers and brought zeal and ability to their oratory. Some notoriety was obtained from a trial that was held of one of the prominent students by certain members of the society assigned for that purpose; and the court was highly interesting to the audience of the school and many visitors. So much in earnest were some of the boys regarding parliamentary rules that after the last session of the day they remained with one of the teachers for drill in the same and not unfrequently, for some weeks, the six o'clock whistle of the factory was the first reminder of the time to go home. The young ladies excelled in recital and in composition, and were eagerly listened to upon their days of open meeting. The Davidsonians are well remembered.

The Academicians were not adverse to fun and even to mischief, occasionally. Practical jokes were not unknown, such as caused the grave instructors to smile audibly when beyond the observation of the culprit.

The Academician, a paper edited and controlled by students, appeared regularly during Prof. Schmitz' administration and will compare favorably with some of the later school organs.

Mrs. Schmitz was a beautiful teacher of children and left a pleasing impression of her work with the younger people. Having three bright little girls of her own she appreciated the needs of a primary class.

Notwithstanding all this, September, 1886, beheld a real Yankee Professor from the land of steady habits and from the old historic town of Groton, in Massachusetts. Professor Nathan Thompson and his charming wife and two daughters entered upon their life at the Academy. They came with new and fresh hopes and plans to be put into execution as soon as possible.

In the year '87 the subject of Manual Training came to be discussed by educators as necessary to a practical education, such as the majority of students in the schools were seeking. The trustees and teachers of the Academy were greatly interested and began to consider the expediency of introducing it in the school. The old charter was consulted in reference to its provision for such training and much interest developed outside.

To Madame Lucy Lovell manual training was not a new subject and she proposed to give to the Trustees of the Academy \$5,000 with which to erect a suitable building for such work. The offer was speedily accepted, the building planned and in a few months completed to the satisfaction of all concerned. The new structure rose just northwest of the main building on the hill, standing like a friend, modestly apart, but near enough for service at all times.

The large compartment, occupying nearly all of the second floor, was furnished by Mrs. M. E. C. Lord with everything that thirty-two students required for a course of two years in mechanical drawing and construction work in wood. A teacher was employed and the department opened in 1889.

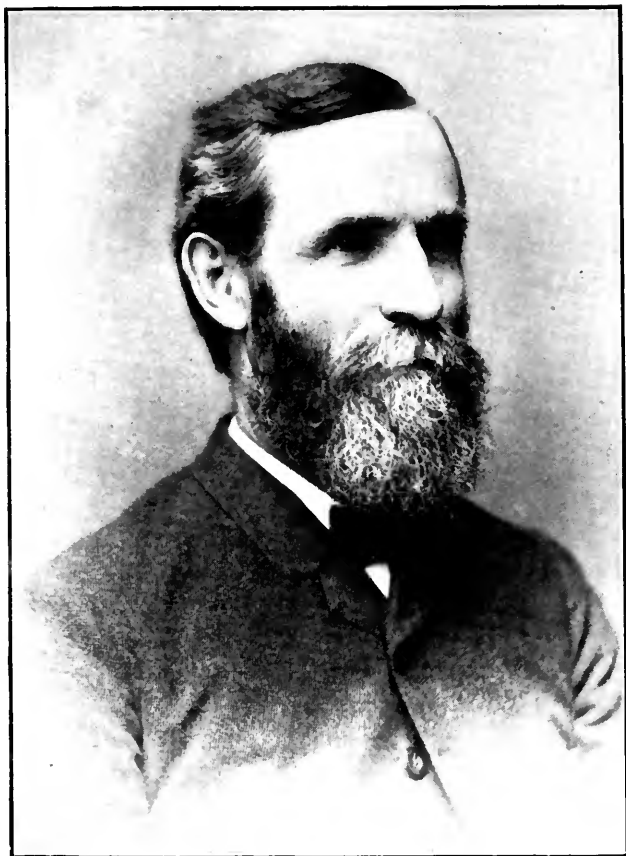
Before this day, however, the President of the board had gone. His long and faithful service was ended. Who would bestow the watchful care, the wise protection of his more than thirty years of service? There were other things of importance during Prof. Thompson's Principalship: The corporate seal of the institution,





J. ADOLPH SCHMITZ, A. M.  
Principal, 1883-1886





NATHAN THOMPSON  
Principal, 1886-1890



now in use, was adopted, '88, taking the place of the one made and adopted in 1855, and two lady Trustees were introduced in 1888.

An institution is like a growing child, always in need of ampler garments and constantly requiring changes for expansion and improvement. One of the changes for which there was a crying need was a heating plant. After much delay, steam was introduced into the building. And where tardy comers, cloaks and overcoats and indifferent lessons had been in evidence on bitter winter mornings, there were prompt, diligent pupils and no irritation, of the Master in charge. Any, or all of these young folks might have been pardoned for adapting Shakespeare to suit the occasion:

"Now is the winter of our discontent,  
Made joyous summer by this"—[genial warmth.]

The popular Elgin Woman's Club was a generous donor to the heating plant and gave \$2,200, the money result of a kermess, for which twenty-five shares of stock were issued to the club. The old cedar shingles, made by hand twenty-five years before, gave place altogether to more modern ones in a new roof for the main building, '89. Prof. Thompson resigned, 1890, after four years of arduous and loyal labor, to enter as instructor in a new field.

Prof. A. M. Mattoon, A. B., and his wife took up their residence in the old east wing at the beginning of the school year in September. In point of numbers the school was small, but it held evenly to its work under the new principal, whose talent and training, habits of order and of study, promptness and accuracy made a teacher bound to accomplish good work. His stay in the Academy, however, was too brief for such results as he has obtained in his later work in a Western college.

In all these years, let it never be forgotten, the spirit and purpose of good work in the education of the students never faltered. Whatever the situation, however threatening the weather outside, the Trustees of the institution kept in view, like faithful watchmen, the essentials of a high-class school and strove to provide for it. But another crisis was approaching. Debts had again accrued. The interest of friends had waned. Appeals for assistance

met with but feeble response and the hand and will of the good Doctor were no longer available. Idle speculations were rife that the old school on the hill had closed its doors for good, that it was only waiting to be turned over, now to this purpose, now to that object, and now to end in humiliation and decay where it stood. The Academy ship was accounted by outside sentiment a derelict, if nothing worse. Not so, however, counseled the good men and true of the Board of Trustees. Though depressed, they were not ready to give up the Academy ship. The vital spirit of many years of effort for its best good was still inherent. Like a thread of gold in a sombre web, was the thought that somewhere there was a man, strong, able, willing, who would take command of and guide the craft into smooth waters and keep it in the channel. But to find him was the question.

From the college in the Forest by the Lake there had gone forth, not long before, a strong soul in a sturdy body, equipped like a knight for service to his kind along the roads of learning. For a year his service had brought him nothing worthy of his steel.

In the summer of '91, Alfred Welch, A. M., came to visit his college classmate (K. B.), who, knowing the situation, brought him and the Trustees together in conference—indeed, to more than one, to many meetings. From them he learned the uttermost there was to tell. From him they learned enough to trust him and to offer him the post of duty—at the head of Elgin Academy. Like the brave of all time, he accepted and began his work without an hour's delay thereafter. The remainder of the summer was spent in plans and preparation. The Trustees entering into the work of repairing and furnishing and providing liberally for the new regime. Supply had again met the demand.

When the old bell rang out its morning call to Academicians September 6, '91, the Academy President and the new Principal and the faculty were already in the dear old west room to greet the half-curious throng that soon filled it and that kept it full for half a dozen years. Everything seemed to have wakened to new life; the halls rang with healthy noise and youthful acclamations and new ideas and suggestions quite took the breath away from old restrictions long outgrown. But with the new freedom, thanks to the



A. M. MATTOON, A. M.  
Principal, 1890-1891

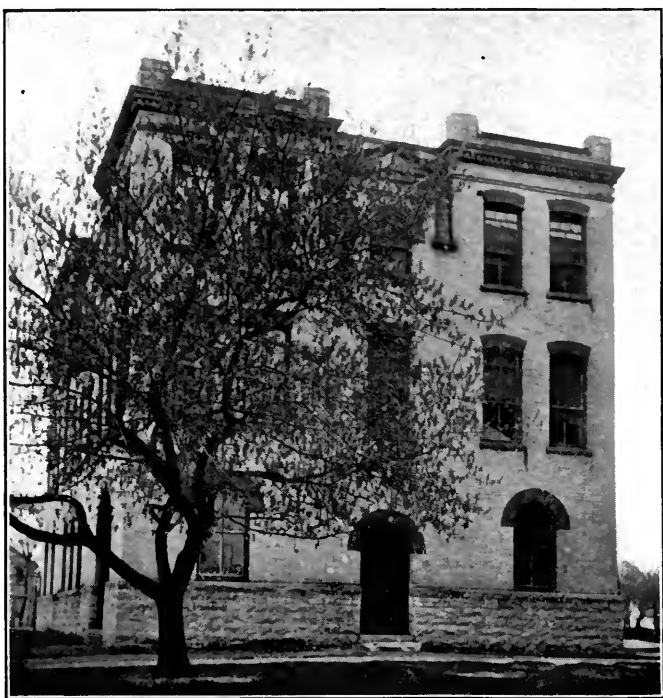






THE FACE OF THE OLD SUNDIAL





LOVELL SCIENCE HALL



new Principal, there came—not more license, but—more zeal for better plans and more and better work. And steady, hard, well organized work there was for teachers and students, and plenty of it. Professor Welch was himself a tireless worker. He believed in work as he did in Heaven, and never was he so fine, or executive, or so impressive or even so helpful as when difficulties were thickest and resistance necessary. Trial brought out the abundance of his resources and finally the desired results in which the pure gold of his motives and the generous instincts of his nature were of more value to those about him than many sermons would have been. There had been excellent instruction given by most of the scholarly predecessors of Prof. Welch, and he was able to do more work along many lines on this account. Education was taking advanced strides; each year education became more exacting as regards schools and teachers. Prof. Welch desired to bring the Academy more directly in touch with colleges than it had been and made great effort to effect an affiliation with the Chicago University. In this he was disappointed, though he prepared the way for it to be realized later.

A business college and a night school were established in the third story of the building and both succeeded.

Natural science was made interesting work. English was never more carefully, nor more generally, pursued. The Academy printing press came near becoming one of the faculty; the College Siftings arose and athletics developed into something like science. The campus was an outdoor school for tennis, baseball and football. Besides this, college songs became an attractive feature under the leadership and stimulus of Mr. George Bergen, one of the faculty; and while a good number of original rhymes were set to rollicking tunes, but one or two specific Academy songs have remained. All these sport-like associations made reunions and class gatherings very popular. The Academy spirit grew, but the manual training languished and was finally retired from the list of studies as impracticable for the Academy. But like other good things for which the Institution has waited, and which have come, manual training may yet arise like a beacon on the hill and its light shine in the Valley of the Fox.

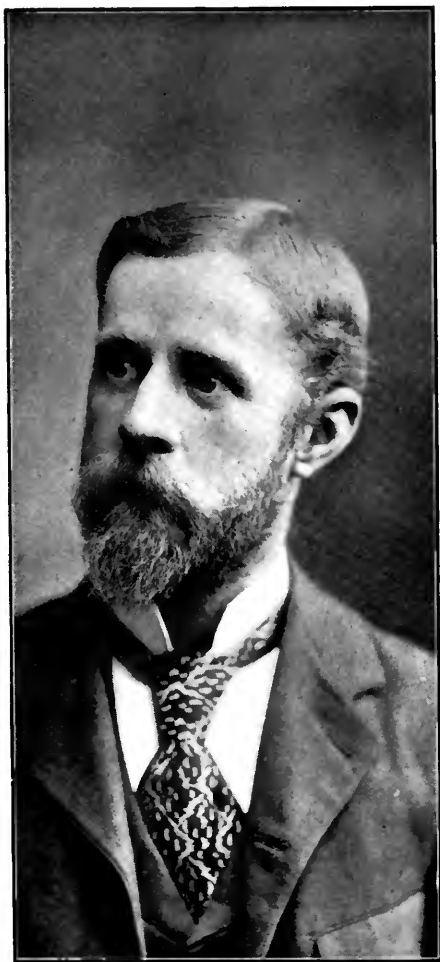
Scholarships were first offered to students under Prof. Welch and also the Laura Davidson Sears medal for proficiency in mathematics. In June, 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Lord rubbed out the Academy debt with \$7,800. This kindness caused great satisfaction among all friends of the Institution. The boys found it a happy occasion for a demonstration and marched through the streets at night, singing and shouting, and ending their display with their favorite song:

"On the banks of the old River Fox, my boys,  
The Academy ever more shall stand,  
For has she not stood since the time of the flood?  
And we hail her the best in the land."

The chorus was followed by their "Slogan," the Academy yell.

Prof. Welch resigned in 1897 to take a position in Lake Forest. He left the Academy in a flourishing condition, and he was universally regretted. He was succeeded by Prof. George P. Bacon, A. M., of Beloit, whose steady, quiet course was in marked contrast to that of the man before him; but it was needed to tide over a critical period in the history of the school. Professor Bacon remained but one year, but long enough to leave the highest standard of upright living and teaching as an example to be followed.

The present principal, Professor George Newton Sleight, came to the Academy in 1898, and has been the director through many changes. He has identified himself with its greatest interests and has effected important movements. The affiliation with the Chicago University was the first one, which was a great step in advance. It commenced in 1899 and inspired great hopes. Those hopes were realized in larger facilities and in changed conditions. A laboratory for physics and one for chemistry were fitted up at considerable expense. Two teachers were added to the force and each teacher in the school was restricted to his specific subject. Physics no longer borrowed from mathematics, nor history from English. The University passed upon the choice of instructors, and upon the standing of students, from examinations submitted to it. Academy students were admitted directly to the University of Chicago courses of study. The announcement of the affiliation was considered mutually beneficial as an advertisement. The



GEORGE P. BACON, A. M.  
Principal, 1897-1898





Academy was still sustained by the tuitions and the trustees. The benefactions of Mr. and Mrs. Lord had been continuous for many years. Mr. A. B. Church was a liberal donor, and there were others.

But there were signs of a change in the weather. There was a sentiment, even before it was spoken, that the Academy might rest upon a larger body and not upon a small number of individuals, like the trustees. It had been intimated for some time that Mr. and Mrs. Lord were interested in so many plans of benevolence that it would be impossible for them, alone, to support the Academy. Mr. Church was no longer a trustee; others were silent. Dr. Harper felt it would be unwise to undertake the responsibility without a large endowment.

1901-'02 were not encouraging years to Professor Sleight at the Academy. The serial subscriptions stopped and there were no overtures in sight; and yet this master of the ship knew that ever since the affiliation with Chicago University, it had moved at a steadier, better rate of speed than ever before. The tuitions had steadily increased along with numbers. And being on the lookout, he descried a stately vessel, not far away. But he pondered over all these things, in his own mind.

"On the banks of the old River Fox, my boys,  
The Academy ever more shall stand,"

sang the students unwittingly,—was it the little finger of destiny or was it the survival of the old thought of good?—Who knows?

As early as 1878 the idea of a \$50,000 endowment for the Academy was promulgated, with little result; again in 1887, with a like experience. Citizens who were patrons were often generous, but something more definite was needed. Two Trustees passed away, leaving conditioned sums from their estates—but these gifts were never realized. Specious promises had raised expectations that were not fulfilled. Of the stockholders some were dead; some were no longer residents, and still others were indifferent except as to the final disposition to be made of Academy property, upon which their ideas were clear and unmistakable.

A meeting of the Trustees was in progress late in the spring of 1902. During a slight pause in the rather sombre discussion of the

next move relating to Academy interests, a messenger was announced and admitted, a student, who advanced and said: "Some of the boys and girls of the school wish to help a little toward keeping it going." And he withdrew, leaving a small canvas bag on the table. When opened the receptacle disclosed various sums of money to the amount of one hundred dollars.

The close of the school year, 1903, was near at hand before Professor Sleight beheld, alongside, the gallant Northwestern University he had signaled.

After due conference and consideration an agreement was arranged between the Trustees and the University by which the Academy should be maintained as an institution of secondary and higher instruction. For this purpose \$5,000 per year for five years, beyond tuitions, were pledged to the University, for the use of Elgin Academy, beside the assurance of a bequest to the Academy of \$40,000 (since paid) from President and Mrs. Lord. For this sum certificates of Academy stock were issued to President and Mrs. Lord, who in July, 1903, turned the shares over to the University. The Woman's Club and several other stockholders donated their stock directly to the University, which has thus secured a controlling interest in the management of the institution, although it does not bind itself to use any of the funds of the University for the support of Elgin Academy.

In this manner was effected the affiliation of 1903.

The amended charter of 1885 remains in force, the institution is still unsectarian and undenominational, though "pervaded by Christian ideals."

The close of fifty years shows the value of a great thought and its influence in this fair valley of the West.



A. B. CHURCH  
Trustee, 1889-1902  
Treasurer, 1892-1902







AMOS G. SEARS, A. M.  
Principal, 1870-1881



MRS. A. G. SEARS  
Preceptress, 1870-1881  
Trustee, 1888-1889

## CHAPTER FIVE

# Four Epochs and Distinguished Instructors Notable Assistants

### 1. The Four Epochs

**I**N OBSERVING the progress of events and of results obtained under the sixteen principals of Elgin Academy, some periods stand out in marked distinctness when compared with others. This is inevitable, but need not detract from the estimate of good work done nor from the fidelity of any principal or teacher.

The principals of the Academy were selected with care, endorsed by authority as trained and capable, and nearly every one of them college-bred men. Some of the number have ruled briefly, but in each period something of value has been added to the whole and all have furnished material for history; even mistakes and errors have shed light on obscure parts.

The First, the Eleventh, the Fourteenth and the Sixteenth administrations mark four important periods in Academy history.

The students of the opening year were children of the early residents of Elgin. The sexes were admitted to the new school with all its advantages and privileges upon equal terms. There were but two requirements made of the Principal: "To maintain an institution of moral character and an high order of learning," but these covered the ground and he was under contract to perform them.

New enterprises are not always fortunate at the start. But, viewed by the merciless searchlight of to-day, one may look back and say there was no mistake made in the founding, nor in the opening, nor in the establishing, of Elgin Academy.

Professor Blenkiron was Principal for the first two years and in that time he accomplished what few men could have done more successfully. He not only marked out, but he established a standard for higher education in the midst of primitive conditions and

with new and untried forces. He opened more than one path to attainments and he set the pace of early steps along the chosen way.

As a man, he stood for the broadest training—I. e. for all education. And he planted a love for learning itself that will never be lost, while its temple stands upon the hill where its rise and development have been so carefully watched and tended.

As a teacher, he applied the test of rule, but reserved judgment. The success of this first principal was due to the man, rather than to the methods acquired of schools; although these were not lacking in his training and they may have accented his own ways of treatment. Notwithstanding his winning personality, he was capable of a caustic criticism and a power of rebuke, which, though seldom used, gave weight and strength to his character and proved him to be a master.

An unusual feature of Professor Blenkiron's instruction was, that he taught without seeming to teach, dispensing wisdom as naturally, as the full cloud bestows its gentle, penetrating moisture upon the earth.

Day by day the teacher and his little band trod the humble paths near the foot of the Mount of Learning and each day he bore the standard of education to a point somewhat higher than before. One day, advancing beyond his flock the master paused and looked about him; then springing upward, he planted the standard far up the mountain. And there it remains to this day—a standard still.

Judged by the records of fifty years and by the testimony of survivors the two years of the beloved teacher's rule shine out like beacon lights revealing, even though dimly, the plans that were laid and the aspirations that were indulged regarding a future ever smiling, always fair.

The advent of the school and of its cultured old-world instructor made a little ripple of satisfaction in those circles most interested and reached many a mind of apathy and quickened it with new longings. Slowly but effectually the current of common thought deepened and later there was scarcely a boy or girl in the town that did not have a chance, in the Academy.





ALFRED GARDNER WELCH, A. M.  
Principal, 1891-1897



"The teachers that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament."

The school year 1870 opened with Professor and Mrs. Sears as Principals of the Academy.

There is scarcely a student of that time, living, whose eyes will not brighten at the sound of the names of these instructors. There is also abundant testimony at hand of the value of their instruction, which dealt largely with principles and was addressed to the reasoning powers of the student. There was a business-like energy so apparent in the school that every member was spurred to do practical work. Beside this, the place was full of an influence toward higher things; in the main, to the deeper thought, the better way, to more diligence and to greater excellence. Interest was never wanting for that which made life stronger and worthier. The whole line swarmed with an earnest activity that was felt beyond the doors of the Academy.

This period is not remembered by the old students and friends for its material success, but for its moral and mental vigor. It was the spirit, not the events, of the Sears' period that effected change and promoted growth.

Mrs. Sears was a remarkable teacher. "Wisdom might be found of her," for she exerted great influence over individual members and eventually over the entire school, she was awake to the importance of a healthy physical, as well as mental and moral development, she introduced and superintended physical training for the young ladies and gave frequent suggestions and advice upon the care of health, and was ever ready to give needed help to those under her charge whatever the want. The conduct of life was a theme for the utterance of great truths and the experience day by day afforded opportunity for their practical application.

Mrs. Sears had a gift for imparting instruction and what is no less desirable, of being understood, her explanations were as clear as her enunciations. Never was "a dull schollard" more fortunate than when his lot fell to Mrs. Sears to be tutored.

An unusual value to be found in her work lay in the noble enthusiasm which attended all her instruction and which became a quickening power to the student mind. Sometimes her presence

alone had an uplifting influence that could always be understood to mean onward and upward.

To-day strong men may tell you what a debt of love and gratitude they owe her; and matrons, with silver threads in their hair, will tell how much they all loved her and of the good old times in the old school when Mr. and Mrs. Sears were there.

Professor Welch, the fourteenth principal of the institution, stood in a breach; he came to repair the walls, like one of the captive Hebrews of ancient times. It was his mission in life to build up and strengthen weak places; to hew, to crowd, to compel. He would have found a way to make bricks without straw, had he been one of the oppressed ones under Pharaoh.

He had a child's implicit trust in God and a strong man's belief in Work. There was his practical creed. He taught the Christian virtues by work; he lived, achieved and still is known by work.

The methods of Professor Welch partook of his nature; he grasped a subject as though it were a piece of land, of which every inch was needed for planting; forcible, tireless and exacting as he was of himself, he required no less of those whom he instructed. Their utmost, concentrated effort was indispensable to their success which he told them was his own. And yet he knew how—none more so—to be patient and considerate to one halting from discouragement, or backward for good reason. He could give himself to an individual as to a cause without reservation and no man was more generous by nature or by practice.

A quick wit, unexpected and apt illustrations and sudden decisions denoted a mind full of resources for any service or occasion. Outside the Academy, Professor Welch was known and respected and in certain circles he was popular. But it was his own students, "they of his own household," that loved him. The magnetism of his companionship held them together with an ever increasing power. The "esprit de corps" which was developed had something deeper in it than the ordinary comradeship of school or college.

Mrs. Welch was never identified with Academy work but her influence in it was pervading and salutary. She was the complement of her husband. He, trenchant, positive and sometimes



GEORGE NEWTON SLEIGHT, A. B., B. Pd.  
Principal, 1898-  
and  
Dean, 1899-



hasty; she, his equal in mind and training, was calm, patient, just. And it was the effect of her serenity and of her reasonable ideas that softened his brusqueness while it did not weaken his authority. Mrs. Welch was a great addition to the Academy and to its circle of friends, she was an attractive and delightful lady.

The value of what Professor and Mrs. Welch accomplished for the old school, with head, heart, hands, can never be computed here; but it was nobly done.

It was no fault of his, but rather of unfortuitous circumstances, that when this remarkably executive principal stepped out, the institution appeared to totter as though to fall. Schools and government require something more permanent to rest upon, than the power of one man.

Long, long will hosts of loving students and friends pay the tribute of grateful remembrance to this great instructor and praise him who needs no praise, for his monument is his Work and that is eternal.

\* \* \*

Professor Sleight belongs to the epoch makers. He has spent a longer period at the head of the Academy than any other principal except Professor Sears, and he has found problems to solve. He came with ardor as others came before him, resolved to know nothing but the Academy and its interests and that resolution is still in force.

It has been the province of Professor Sleight to guide, to guard and to watch, to develop ideas for improvement or to reject plans unsuited to existing conditions. With unwearied effort has he sought to secure every needed aid for the higher education which is pursued under his direction; and to enlarge and emphasize every opportunity by which the institution may become, the Greater Academy.

The four epoch making periods of the school may be recapitulated thus:

- I. The establishment of the standard for Education.
- II. Growth; Physical, Moral, and Mental.
- III. Work.
- IV. The Greater Academy.

## 2. Notable Assistants

The names of distinguished instructors already given, call attention to a few only, but there were others. And among assistants, Miss W. M. Capron—later Mrs. Sylla—was a brilliant example. She was associated with Professor Blenkiron, and if he was the sun of the establishment, she was the admired lesser light. She had a haunting smile and eyes remarkable for their beauty.

This lady had the reputation of being one of the finest teachers in the West and there has never been any reason to dispute it. Her training had been in that famous seminary in Troy, Mrs. Emma Willard's.

Miss Capron impressed her pupils with the idea that, "the best was none too good," either in department or work. And as she expected it, her classes endeavored to satisfy her. She was famous for her thoroughness, but was a great favorite notwithstanding. One day, it is related, she observed that one of the young fellows in the class whispered to his companion. And when the culprit turned his head he became aware of the gaze of his teacher fixed upon him in a manner that seemed to penetrate his marrow. Conscious of guilt, in violating the requirement of "no whispering," and humiliated by it he appeared, to himself, to shrink into such small dimensions that he might be summed up in a small, round cipher; and the worst of all to bear, he said, was that everybody in the room was of the same opinion.

Miss E. E. Kenyon, still dearly remembered as an high-toned, cultivated lady of the Sears' time, introduced her crowded classes to the world of Literature and gave delightful instruction in other branches.

The Academy is happy to claim as a graduate and teacher Miss Jennie Tazewell, Assistant Superintendent of Elgin public schools, and to congratulate any community that can have the benefit of her rare talent and trained faculties in its schools.

Laura Davidson [Sears] completed her course of study at the Academy in 1872; she became a teacher in the school in 1877, taking up the higher mathematics for which she was fitted by her exceptional talent and excellent training at Vassar College and under the celebrated astronomer, Professor Maria Mitchell.



JENNIE TAZEVELL  
Preparatory and Intermediate  
Department  
1874-1880

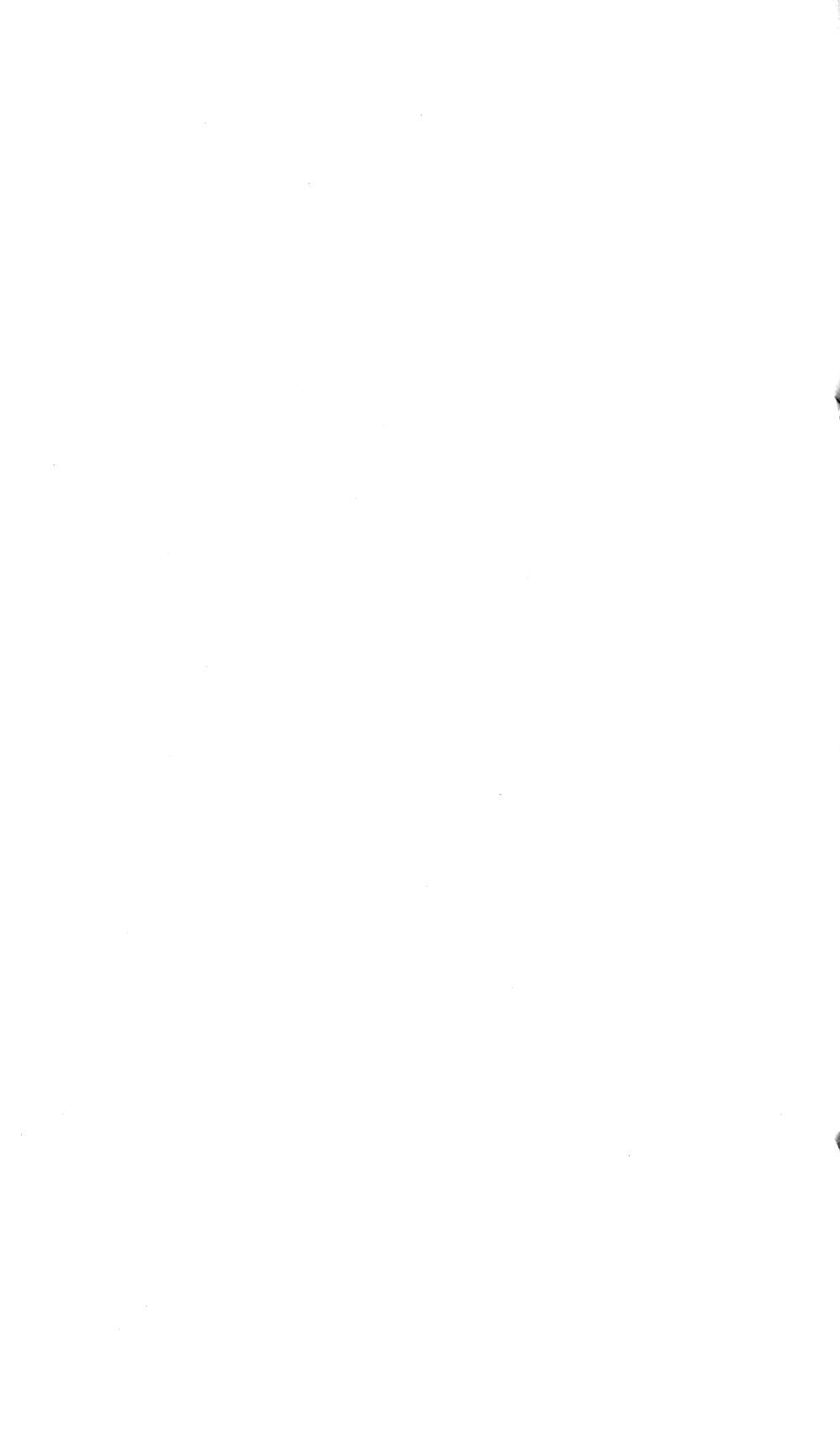


ELIZABETH ESTHER  
KENYON  
Teacher, 1872-1877

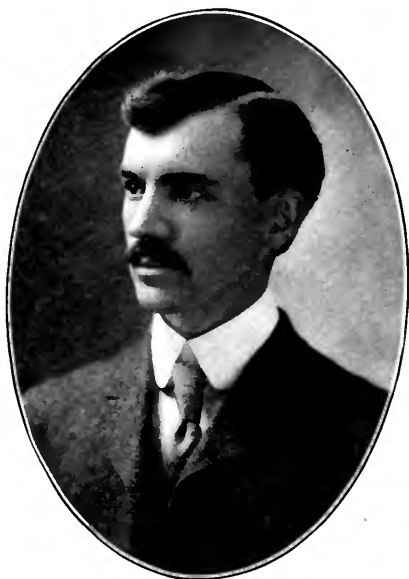




LAURA R. DAVIDSON  
Teacher of Mathematics, 1877-1884  
and 1885-1887



MRS. LOTTA H. JAMES  
Shorthand and Typewriting  
1898-1906



ROBERT A. CAMPBELL  
Physics, Chemistry  
and Botany  
1901 -



Miss Davidson's work was characterized by steady thoroughness and much fine instruction in other subjects beside mathematics. She was an inspiration to the young ladies of the institution, and one of the rhetorical societies was named for her—The Davidsonians—and flourished famously.

Nearly two decades have passed since she left the school; but to the old students of her time, Miss Davidson is "still lovely" and beloved. She is also remembered as the daughter of Mr. Davidson, the faithful friend and Secretary of the Academy for more than forty years.

Mrs. Sears has shown her interest in the institution by offering each year, since '95, the L. D. S. medal for greatest proficiency in mathematics, which is still her favorite subject.

The Academy has been fortunate in the long and excellent service of Miss S. A. Pratt, A. B., a vigorous instructor, whose success commends her methods.

Her position is one of trust and responsibility, which she has held in a manner which has given assurance of her fitness for it. Her loyalty to the institution and her solicitude for its permanent welfare make her an appreciated member of the Academy faculty, while her love for the students, which is amply reciprocated, shows her to be a true and desirable friend for them.

In everything relating to matters of interest to the school or to any member of it, the Academy has found in Miss Florence Raymond, B. S., an able worker, who is also a beloved friend and teacher.

Miss Raymond has filled since '94 the chair of mathematics to entire satisfaction; her instruction being of a superior quality. It is as clear cut as the face of a cameo and marked by a fine individuality that belongs to all the work of her well-ordered mind.

Each of these instructors, Miss Pratt and Miss Raymond, has proved herself to be an efficient and invaluable assistant.

Mrs. Lotta H. James, shorthand instructor, has found abundant exercise for her executive abilities during the past eight years in the Academy. Her duties have been discharged with prompt cheerfulness and good results. She has been especially helpful during this "Jubilee" campaign in obtaining photographs of the former principals, whose likenesses illustrate this volume.

Mrs. James will be followed by the sincere regret of her many friends when she leaves the old school on the hill for the home that claims her.

Professor Robert Campbell, B. Sc., Natural Science, is a faithful instructor in the laboratories in Lovell Science Hall. He is a quiet enthusiast in the study and presentation of his subjects. His five years of teaching in the Academy have been occupied with studies for the benefit of his classes.

Miss Bessie M. Costello, instructor in shorthand in the Academy night school since 1898, is an example of untiring effort toward a desired point. She has achieved success because she has been true to her ideals. She has developed qualities of such excellence as to render her work as an assistant most praiseworthy.



THE ACADEMY SEAL





SARAH A. PRATT, A. B.  
English and History, 1894-1899  
English, 1894-



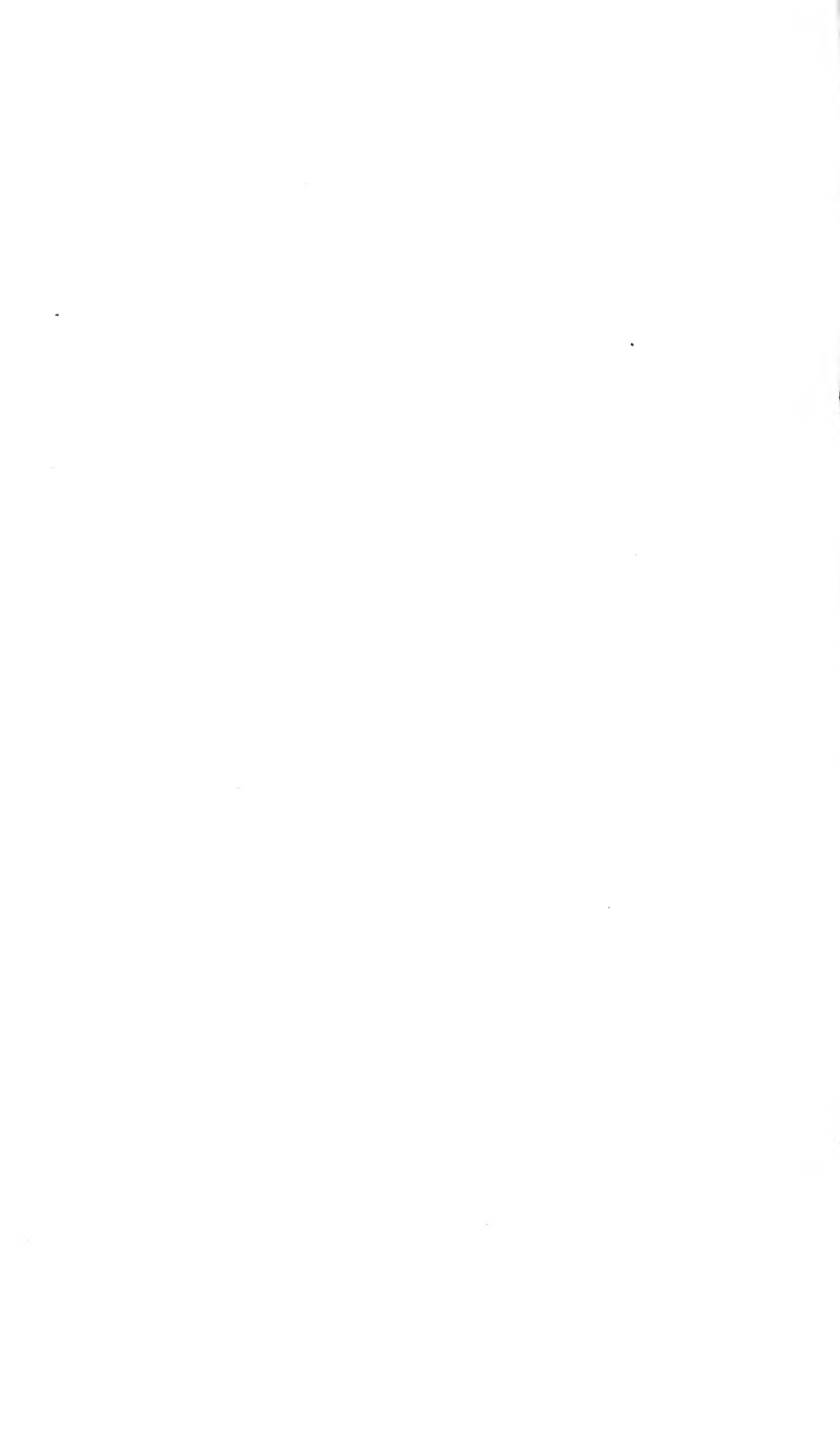


FLORENCE S. RAYMOND, B. S.  
Teacher of Science and Mathematics, 1894-1899  
Mathematics, 1899 -





BESSIE M. COSTELLO  
Shorthand and Typewriting  
Night School, 1898-1899, 1900-



## CHAPTER SIX

### James Calcott Gifford 1800-1850

Founder of Elgin 1835

Founder of Elgin Academy 1839

**M**R. GIFFORD was an all-around man, quick to see, prompt to act. He had large talent for construction. He was always on the look-out for eligible building sites. He handled tools easily and naturally. When he started for the west, his wagon was filled with tools, which were seldom idle in the new settlement, where he found abundant exercise for his constructive faculties. He built one half the dam over Fox River, had a hand in the first bridge and erected a mill. He also laid out roads and planned business enterprises and it is matter of history, how he labored to upbuild religious and civil organizations in the town he had planted.

But there was also another power, equally useful in a new country, that was much in evidence; and that, was the power of adapting circumstances to the situation. Here is an instance: "There were no mills for grinding corn nearer the new settlement than Chicago or Joliet. A pilgrimage to either place was expensive in time and patience. Mr. Gifford improvised a mill for reducing corn to the hominy stage. It was not a new idea, but it served. He hollowed out a large stump and above it arranged an old fashioned well-sweep, to which he attached a heavy stone. This primitive pounder could be raised or lowered at will upon the corn," with reasonably satisfactory results.

Another instance is related: Unsatisfied in his attempts to break the prairie sod, Mr. Gifford conceived the idea of improving his plow, a wooden affair quite inadequate for the heavy work. He obtained two old steam boiler plates and with the aid of a blacksmith he cut and adjusted them to his plow and found, it answered for the occasion.

In 1836 there was but a half obliterated army trail from Chicago to the Mississippi. With great effort Mr. Gifford was successful in getting a government survey of a mail and stage route between Chicago and Galena which was the main highway of travel westward until after 1850.

An hotel became a necessity for the travelers passing through Elgin, and Mr. Gifford gave three lots upon which to construct a log tavern; this humble hostelry, with frame attachment, stood for many years upon the side of the present Masonic Temple on Villa street.

In 1837 a piece of ground was given to every religious denomination that wished to build a church in Elgin; and in the same year to every machinist in the town a lot was given, provided he would build a house upon it. Provision was also made by Mr. Gifford for a public square, or park, comprising about two acres, between Fulton and Du Page streets, and the two handsome lots facing the square were given in 1845 to the town for its new brick school house, which was yet only on paper.

Mr. Gifford's ideas of education were broad enough to include the indispensable Public School and something more. He coveted for Elgin "the opportunities for education." And in order that every avenue might be open leading to the best and most complete preparation for life and usefulness, he obtained the charter for an academy of higher learning.

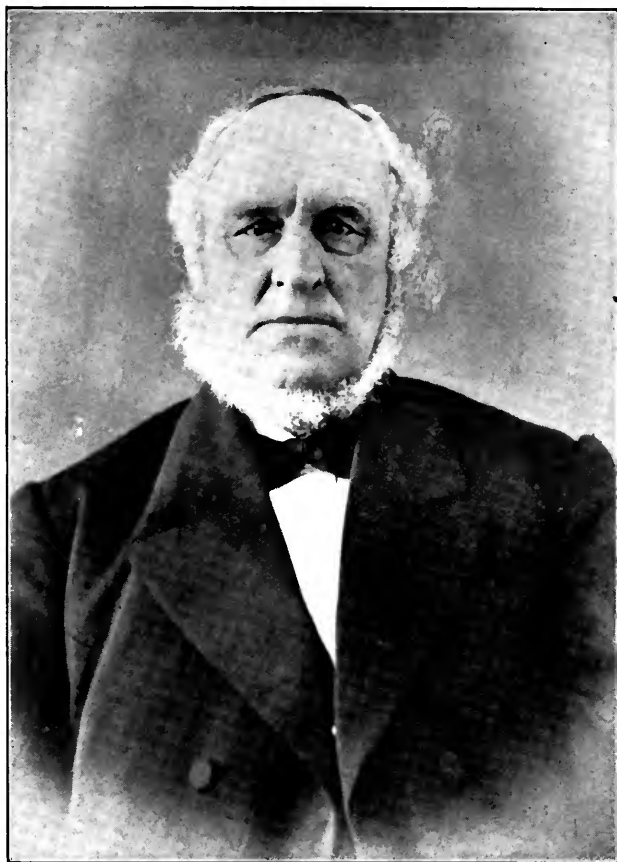
During a wave of illness, depression and inactivity in Elgin, 1847, Mr. Gifford removed to Wisconsin. He was nominally the founder of a town there, but did not remain long. He returned in 1849 and soon after began to build a home for himself, among his old friends and neighbors, in the town that he loved and where everybody loved and respected him.

But before the "Stone Cottage," of cherished memory, was completed—"the hearse was at the door."

This modest, large-minded man, the founder of Elgin, had sown his generous thoughts, had planted his kind deeds, that others might reap and enjoy abundant harvest in this valley of the West.







JOSEPH TEFFT, M. D.  
Trustee, 1843-1888  
President of Board, 1854-1888

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### The Academy Trustees 1854

**T**HIS was a body of citizens who brought the different views of their callings, or professions, into the organization and represented the shades of thought in the community. It was an able and dignified body and is worthy a tribute of respect and gratitude from all academicians.

**Joseph Tefft, M. D., 1812-1888.**

Dr. Tefft, in 1835, came to Elgin and was identified with its interests more than fifty years. He was the first physician of the town and the first mayor of the city; also considered one of the first citizens in position and influence. His mind was as robust as his body, his natural gifts and education beyond the ordinary. He was always a student and interested in natural science, especially in that part of the book of nature that treats of stones and rocks. These pages he read with delight as long as he lived and would not unfrequently produce from his pocket a crystalized specimen or a crinoid for the admiration of a visitor. His habits of tireless industry and perseverance, his careful judgment and substantial resources made him a desirable associate in new enterprises. For a man of conservative views he was a public spirited citizen. Of quaker origin he leaned toward that faith though the Deity very near to him was the God of nature.

When the decision of the Doctor was once announced, he was thenceforth positive and unyielding. He enforced the prohibitory law passed by the Council in 1854 and while he was mayor no liquor was sold in the city.

When the Doctor became mayor, he looked around to see what would be of most advantage to the city and, among other things, he recalled Mr. Gifford's efforts toward an Elgin Academy; for the Doctor had been a member of the Board of 1843. He dwelt with much interest on the plans then proposed and upon the situation

as it was then and upon what it was now. A new light dawned upon him; the Doctor had grown and he realized it. The plans of his old friend appeared no longer impracticable, he was in full accord with them. And he therefore called the old Trustees to his aid. The Trustees came, they saw, they consented. They reorganized and put the Mayor-Doctor at the head as President of an enterprising body.

The result is known, the seed of thought had at last taken root—the Elgin Academy was an accomplished fact.

Dr. Tefft's policy for the institution consisted of two ideas, viz. the matter of its existence pure and simple and the holding, tenaciously, to its purpose of character and learning as expressed in its charter. From this policy he never deviated. The Academy was dear to him as a child might have been that he had befriended and protected and he would not have allowed it to perish without his uttermost efforts to save it. As it was he gave it thought, time and some money.

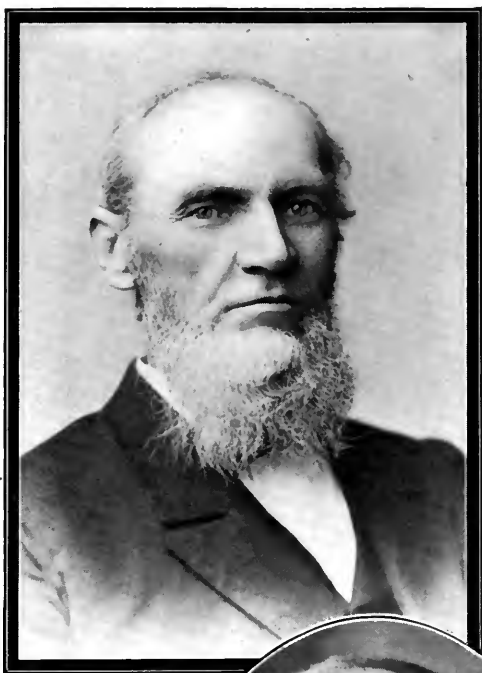
The school went on with the years and the Doctor with it. Hard times might prevail, and decay threaten but the doors always opened with the school year with new hope, the Doctor and a Faculty. The school was too well founded to die.

For thirty and three years this faithful friend stood at his post of observation and authority, like the captain of a ship in all weather.

In a last communication to the Trustees and his final words, he says: "The work goes nobly on of educating the many; may it ever continue."

"This was a kind man and true;" and for his long, patient and conservative service the Academy owes him a debt of honor and gratitude.

Mr. Orlando Davidson gave his sanction and support to whatever appeared to be for the advancement, morally, intellectually or materially, of Elgin. There was scarcely a business organization of importance with which he was not associated. The school and the church were public institutions that appealed strongly to him and he early made the interests of each his own. If the conservative course of the President, Dr. Tefft, was necessary to the existence of the Academy, the fostering care of Secretary Davidson was in-



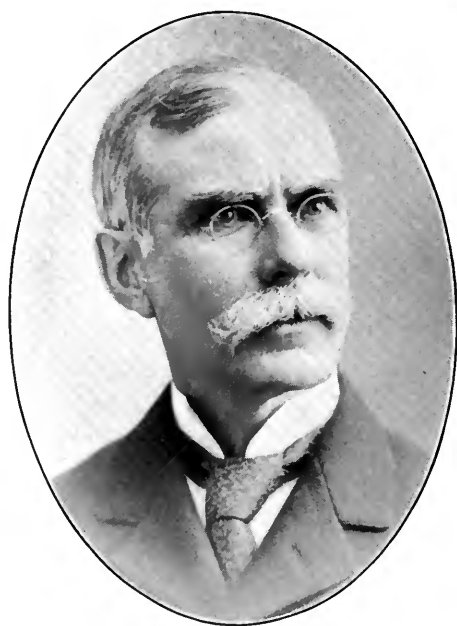
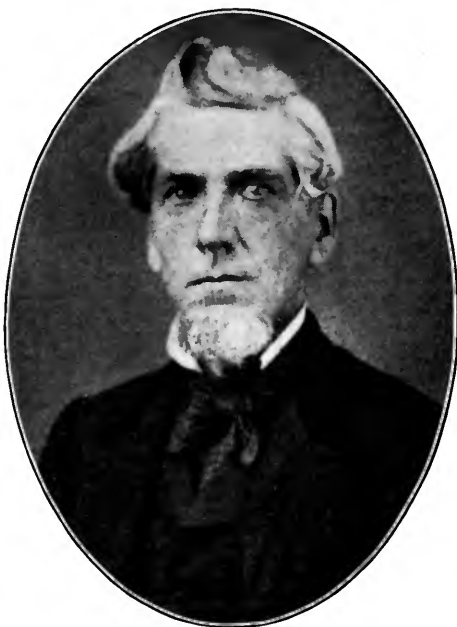
ORLANDO  
DAVIDSON  
Trustee and  
Secretary of Board,  
1854-1899  
Treasurer,  
1865-1888



FRANK B. PERKINS  
Trustee, 1890-1903  
Acting Secretary of  
Board, 1897-1902  
Secretary of Board,  
1902-1903



ANDREW J. WALDRON  
Trustee, 1855-1866



E. DUNBAR WALDRON  
Trustee, 1884-1903  
Treasurer, 1888-1891





valuable. It was he, who effected transient loans, obtained small donations and performed countless services for all concerned. Beneath a quite demeanor, Mr. Davidson had a mind that could often "bring things to pass." He was strong in suggestion rather than argument. He believed in an open statement of facts, and having expressed his opinion, he adhered to it. In time of trouble or sorrow to friends or acquaintances his hand was promptly extended to offer relief, and his sympathies were expressed in the kindest and most considerate deeds.

For a third of a century, President Tefft and Secretary Davidson worked together for the Academy, each in his own way estimating its influence for good to the youth gathered within its walls.

Surely there may be found many whose unwritten lives do testify in higher thinking and nobler living, the benefits derived from examples like these.

Mr. Andrew Jackson Waldron was one of the first stockholders of the Academy, of which he became a Trustee in 1855, a man of high intelligence and culture and of excellent financial ability. His qualities were those that are always needed in a new and enterprising community.

He entered with spirit into the plans for Academy work and was truly appreciated by the Trustees, to whom he was a welcome member. His judgment was in constant request and generally accepted.

His associates had an affection for him and mourned him long and sincerely, when he died in 1866.

Mr. Waldron's son, Mr. E. D. Waldron became a Trustee in 1884 (-1902.) He was treasurer of the Board, '88-'91, and rendered financial aid to the institution, which had been watched and cherished by his father.

The Academy claims Mr. E. D. Waldron as one of its old students and reliable friends, although he is no longer one of its directors.

Mr. William G. Hubbard, 1866-'83, stockholder, patron and Trustee, gave hearty and unqualified support to the school and the institution on college hill. He and his wife were firm friends for many years to both Academy principals and students.

Rev. A. J. Joslyn, pastor for many years of the First Baptist Church of Elgin, was a man of intellectual brilliance. He rendered great service to the cause of higher education in this region by his broad views expressed by voice, pen and active work. When editor of the Elgin Gazette he did not hesitate to use its pages for the benefit of the Elgin Academy. He was a Trustee from 1854-1868, a constant patron and an enthusiastic friend.

Hon. B. W. Raymond, resident and first Mayor of Chicago; merchant, capitalist and business man, having large interests in Elgin, was chosen in 1854 to fill the vacancy in the Board of Trustees caused by Mr. Gifford's death. He was quick to perceive the advantages to the Fox River Valley of an Institution of Learning in Elgin and gave generously land and money to it. His name, his gifts and his out-spoken favorable words carried weight and influence. Mr. Raymond was highly respected and had the reputation of being a man of first-class public spirit, and a man of honor. He died in '83.

Hon. Augustus Adams, 1854-'57, a prominent citizen, was elected to take the place on the Board of Gen. McClure, deceased. Mr. Adams was well known for liberal views upon education and other subjects pertaining to the public weal. He was most widely known later, for the introduction to the prairie farmer of those blessings known as agricultural implements, which he began to manufacture in Elgin. In '57 he removed to Sandwich, where he engaged more extensively in the business, sending his productions to all parts of the world.

Mr. Adams was State Senator 1868-'72.

Mr. Henry Sherman 1855-'92, a pioneer of '38, was a self-made man who found his training in the school of life. He never departed from the habits of industry nor the principles of integrity that he early acquired. He delighted in active work for the self-respect and the independence that it brought. And he practised the faith that he professed in charitable works.

Mr. Sherman had an irresistible humor, that enlivened many a somber gathering, and acted like magic in introducing another view for contemplation. His long service as Trustee of the Academy, his financial aid in earlier days, his patronage of the

WILLIAM G. HUBBARD  
Trustee, 1866-1883



REV. JOSEPH H.  
SELDEN, D. D.  
Trustee, 1893-1901





MRS. EUGENIA A. RANSTEAD  
Trustee, 1889-1903



JUDGE SYLVANUS WILCOX  
Trustee, 1865-1890  
President of Board, 1889-1890



school and his constant friendship entitle him to remembrance, beside a feeling of great respect for his sterling character.

Mr. Morris C. Town was chosen in 1854 to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of Colton Knox.

Though engrossed in financial affairs, occupied by stocks and exchanges and other matters that belong to an active banker, Mr. Town found time to attend to Academy affairs. He was Treasurer for ten years and remained afterward as a good and reliable friend and patron until his decease in 1892.

Mr. W. C. Kimball deserves more than a passing notice for the public spirit and enterprise that he infused into Elgin. A pioneer of 1837, young, capable, ambitious, he entered into business in West Elgin with an enthusiasm for improvement that was contagious. He had large and practical ideas and he knew how to develop and accomplish them. A history of Elgin would not be complete without the account of what Mr. Kimball did for it.

He set in motion the wheels of mills and of commerce; and owned one-half the water power. He engaged in merchandise and other occupations, kept open house and had many retainers. Toward the toilers of that day who were struggling with hard conditions, he was more than kind. He built and managed for some time, the Waverly House. It was called the finest hotel in the west.

In 1855 Mr. Kimball became a Trustee of the Academy and he never resigned. He was a contributor from time to time, a shareholder and a patron. He was Mayor of Elgin in 1871 and died in '76, lamented by a host of friends who were drowned in regrets and tears for him.

Sylvanus Wilcox, 1865-'90, was a West Point student, western farmer, a lawyer, judge and a highly respected citizen. He well knew the value of education and was a friend to schools and colleges. He was enthusiastic over the manual training at the Academy; he was President of the Board '89-'90. He was a conservative and careful man in business and much sought for his legal opinions. He died in 1902.

Mr. John Hill succeeded Gen. Elijah Wilcox as Trustee in '55. He was an active member and a loyal and generous friend in the establishment of the Academy, and to its teachers. He died in '63.

Mr. L. H. Yarwood is the oldest Trustee now living, in point of the time of service, 1863-'65. He still occupies the residence that his father did fifty years ago on Park street, nearly opposite the Academy.

Mr. Yarwood was in active business many years in Elgin and is known, locally, as an artist of great natural ability and of fine execution. He was teacher of drawing and painting at the Academy at one time and was Secretary and Treasurer of the Board, '64-'65. He was also a stockholder and patron.

Mr. Thomas L. Morgan 1856-'65, had neither large means nor large prospects, but he foresaw the necessity for a reference library as soon as the school opened. He accordingly gave \$200 for the beginning of a collection. Let this man be a perpetual reminder of the interest in education at that time among the citizens of small means in Elgin and let his gift be a memorial to him in the Academy he served.

Mr. E. F. Colby, a lawyer and real estate man served on the Board with great acceptance as Financial Agent and Trustee for four years, 1856-'60. He was followed by Mr. George P. Harvey, 1860-'63. After an interval of two years he was again elected and served from 1865-'68.

Mr. T. Schoonhoven 1857-'63, Mr. A. B. Fish 1863-'65, Dr. L. S. Tyler 1863-'65, Mr. R. W. Padelford 1865-'68, Mr. Henry Bierman 1869-'90.

Mr. A. B. Hinsdell, 1865-'84. When the Academy was in process of construction he was so anxious that the building should be completed in time for the school to open, that, notwithstanding his purchase of all the stock he felt able to carry, he sent his teams to assist in the heavy work of hauling material and in the performance of other possible services.

Mr. Hinsdell was cherished by his associates and friends as an upright Christian man. The A. B. Hinsdell Library at the Academy is to his memory.

Mr. I. C. Bosworth, 1868, gave his influence and support for twenty years to the institution on college hill. He was a patron and a friend, although his business affairs allowed him little time outside for other matters.



ASAHEL BEMIS  
HINSDELL  
Trustee, 1865-1884

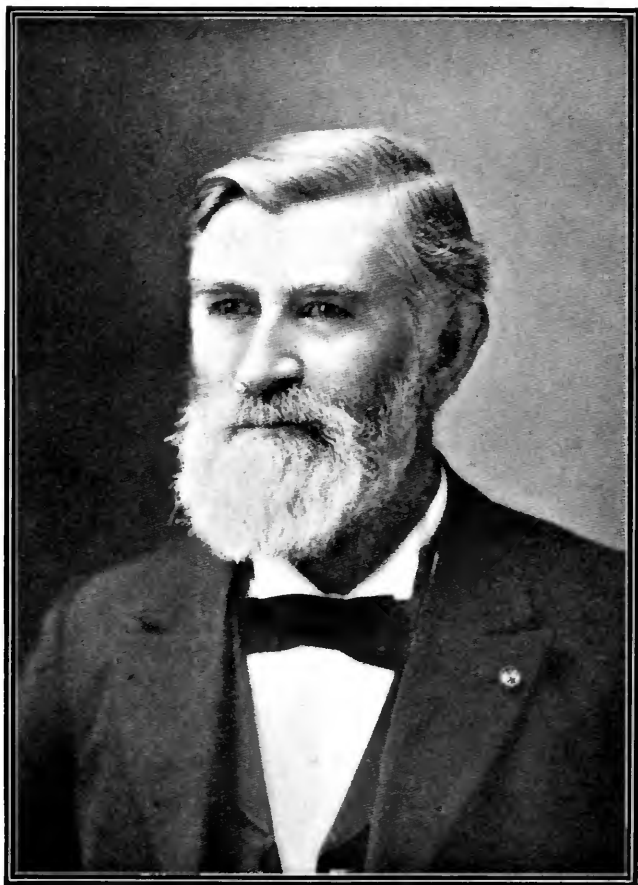
The A. B. Hinsdell  
Memorial Library was  
donated by  
Ellen B. Hinsdell



J. ADDISON KNIGHT  
Donor of the J. Addison Knight  
Classical Library  
January 1, 1901







GENERAL JOHN SHULER WILCOX  
Trustee, 1872-  
President of the Board, 1890-1894

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Later Trustees

**G**EN. JOHN S. WILCOX, 1872, needs no introduction to an Elgin audience. The greater part of his life has been passed in this picturesque valley-town. His home and his interests center here and he lives in a neighborhood of friends. Reputation and character are not divided in him, for both are fine. He is a member of the Loyal Legion and he is cherished by every veteran of the civil war. His salient qualities of patriotism and comradeship cause frequent demands upon his eloquence, to which he responds so happily that he is known as "the silver-tongued Colonel."

In 1872 began the General's association with the Academy, and though he is acquainted with all its vicissitudes, yet he has an affection for it. His children have all been students there, he has followed with deep interest the instruction pursued, and he has always been a welcome visitor and friend.

It was during the General's Presidency of the Board, '90-'94, that occurred the greatest depression of the institution and also its great revival under Professor Welch.

General Wilcox believes that: "Thought rules the world" and that youth must be taught how to think.

This long and faithful service of more than thirty years deserves acknowledgment.

Hon. Edward C. Lovell, 1876-1902, friend of the Academy and friend of its friends, was fitted by character, education and inclination for the office of Trustee in a body of which his father had been an active charter member.

1876 was the memorial year of our nation and naturally inspired all citizens to exertion for its every advantage. An impetus was given to all vocations and new energy developed

along educational lines, which was felt to the remotest parts of the country.

Elgin schools, even Elgin itself, felt the greater stir and throb of enterprise and interest and made commendable efforts in work and study.

Judge Lovell was elected in place of Mr. Wm. C. Kimball and entered at once upon a cheerful and efficient service, which continued for the remainder of his life. He gave to the cause time, money and solicitous attention.

He was an excellent student, a natural teacher and the halls of learning were attractive to him; but especially so was the Academy, where he had been both pupil and instructor, under the first Principal, whom he loved with fervent devotion. He was never happier than when recounting incidents of other days for the gratification of students, who regarded him as a link between a golden past and an uneventful present.

Lovell Science Hall, though erected as a memorial to Vincent Lovell, stands as a monument for three generations of the Lovell name—father, mother, sons and the three daughters of the lamented Edward Coltus Lovell.

Mr. C. H. Larkin, 1884-'88, may be considered one of the men of mark in Kane County and of Elgin. His mind was extraordinary in its intelligent vigor. He had educated himself almost entirely, but his fund of information upon all practical subjects was accurate and nearly inexhaustible.

His substantial aid for several years after his resignation from the Board of Trustees, made possible improved conditions at the Academy and increased its teaching force.

Mr. Larkin's son, the lamented Dr. Fred Larkin, of Chicago, was a well remembered student.

Mrs. S. A. Sears, 1888-'89, was the first lady Trustee, and her influence and practical suggestions were highly appreciated by the Board. As her residence was in Chicago she found it inconvenient to attend the Trustee meetings, and she resigned after one year of service, to be followed by Mrs. Eugenia A. Ranstead, who was an active worker for the Academy until 1903, when her health required her attention. She was an especial friend of Professor

MRS. LUCY SMITH  
LOVELL  
Donor of Manual Training  
Building  
now  
Lovell Science Hall



JUDGE EDWARD COULTAS  
LOVELL  
Trustee, 1876-1902





Welch and of other teachers, and had a lively interest in the institution, where her husband, Hon. J. R. Ranstead and their daughter, had been distinguished students.

Mrs. M. E. Carpenter, [Mrs. Lord], was a member of the Board 1888.

Mr. A. B. Church, 1889-1902, long at the head of a great industry, is a quiet, unostentatious gentleman whose natural kindness is an integral part of his character. He showed this to the Academy which he treated like some friend in adversity whose pressing needs must be met at all hazard, supplying it promptly and cheerfully many times. His spirit of fidelity to an accepted trust was always in evidence. He was a systematic giver during his years of service on the Board of Trustees, and though his residence is no longer in Elgin, he still contributes to the cause of education on college hill.

The Gail Borden Library building and the property of the new Y. W. C. A., on Chicago street, are gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Church to Elgin, and of inestimable value.

**Hon. and Mrs. George F. Lord.**

"That good profits most, which serves all men."

Mr. Lord became an Academy Trustee in 1885 and President in 1894.

Mrs. Lord had been an earnest friend and contributor to Academy needs, before she was elected Trustee in '88. After that year Mr. and Mrs. Lord's support seemed like that of two strong pillars upholding an arch. And the support continued for as many as fifteen years or more, and amounted to nearly \$20,000 in that time, including tuitions, debts of the institution and repairs.

Then came the supreme act of their benevolence in 1905, the Lord bequest of \$40,000 to Elgin Academy.

In the selection of their beneficiaries, Mr. and Mrs. Lord displayed great wisdom; for many objects appealed to them. But, after years of consideration and experience in giving, they decided upon, what appeared to be, the greatest good that they could devise, viz.:

For Elgin, the parks and park equipment.

For the Y. M. C. A., a building and a completely equipped establishment.

For the Academy, the nucleus of an endowment fund.

For the Aged, a home.

These four divisions constitute the whole community.

Elgin is fortunate to have citizens who establish public institutions of such intrinsic value as these.

Parks are like oases in the desert, that offer rest and refreshment for body and mind,

The Y. M. C. Association has a home, as free as a father's house, furnished with whatever leads to uprightness, or contributes to ideas of excellence and honest achievement.

The Academy was a school, halting on a threshold, with only half-open doors and forever calling, like the Macedonians in Paul's Vision, "come over and help us."

The importunity touched Mrs. Lord; she saw those young souls looking to her for assistance, as children look to their mother for bread. Her heart went out to them. She could not refuse them. And that was the reason that, during conferences over the disposition of bequests and donations, she often asserted, "the Academy must go on."

It was the variation of the founder's thought "for an Academy," Dr. Tefft's decision "we must have it", Mrs. Lord's "it must go on," and the boys' song "The Academy ever more shall stand."

At last, the old doors have swung wide apart; the way to fields beyond and to fresh pools of knowledge is in full view, where "bread, and wealth, and power, and education are for every one who has the heart to use the opportunity."

Mr. Lord is an idealist, practical without being visionary, for he is tenacious of purpose until an object is attained. Ever ready to listen to new ideas, he is as secretive as a foreign diplomat, until he has weighed them. The freshness and vigor of his mind is partly due to his lively interest in public affairs, but far more to his faith in the beneficent power of God. He believes in the greatness of Goodness.

Mr. Lord has been associated with great industries, has been Mayor of the city and President of corporations; but he can have exerted no more important influence in the world's work than he has done for the training of youth and the guidance of young men toward citizenship.

The debt of gratitude to President Lord can only be discharged,



HON. GEORGE P.  
LORD  
Trustee, 1885 -  
President of Board,  
1894 -



MRS. MARY E.  
CARPENTER LORD  
Trustee, 1899-1903



as the slow-forming years go on, in noble character and exalted living.

Mr. Francis B. Perkins, 1890-'93, student of the old school in '57, one of the boys of '61, member of the Loyal Legion and a Trustee of the Academy, has been mindful of all its changes during these fifty years, and is still an active and devoted friend. His knowledge of the early days, his memory of important events connected with this history have made him of great assistance in its preparation. He is entitled to much credit for securing the enlargement, by an artist, of the likeness of Professor Blenkiron, intended for unveiling at reunion; a service that will be highly appreciated by Mr. Perkin's contemporaries.

Major George D. Sherman, 1893-'98, succeeded his father, Mr. Henry Sherman, on the Board of Trustees. He was a student of the Academy, and responded to his country's call in '61, and served for three years in the Army of the Cumberland and Tennessee. Enlisting as a private he earned every step of his promotion by hard and distinguished service. The last year he was in command of the Military Prison at Nashville.

Dr. Janette Sherman, of Philadelphia, the Major's daughter, is remembered as an excellent and an interesting student. Her record in her profession has fully verified her promise.

Mr. C. J. Schultz, 1890-'93, an enthusiastic member of the Board, died suddenly in '93, and was much regretted.

Mr. W. H. Hintze, 1893-'98, gave the weight of his influence for scientific training in both, Academy and Public Schools. He claimed for science and modern languages, better and more practical results, than were obtained under a classical education.

Joseph Selden, D. D., Pastor of the Congregational Church in Elgin, was a most efficient member of the Academy Board from 1893-1901. He advanced the cause of education, wherever he was, by his broad ideas concerning work and progress. He was anxious to have the Academy widen its sphere of usefulness by affiliation with the University of Chicago, and by the uplifting of the standards of excellence.

Dr. Selden was as practical as he was able and decided.

Rev. Austen Du Blois, Ph. D., and Rev. James Chalmers, D. D.,

Elgin pastors, were both members of the board for one year, '92-'93.

Dr. Chalmers gave a series of lessons in Bible study at the Academy that were of great value to the students and to others who attended them.

Mr. W. E. Bosworth, 1898-1903, son of Mr. I. C. Bosworth, was a patron of the school, and, although a quiet member of the Board, he discharged his duties with cheerful promptness. His character was above reproach and he died beloved and respected.

William C. Bridge, M. D., graduated from the Academy in 1875. He became a Trustee for his Alma Mater in 1902 and worked for her interest until the present year.

Dr. Bridge is a prominent physician of the city. He is a clever and an interesting after-dinner speaker and in request at reunions.



DAVID C. COOK, Sr.

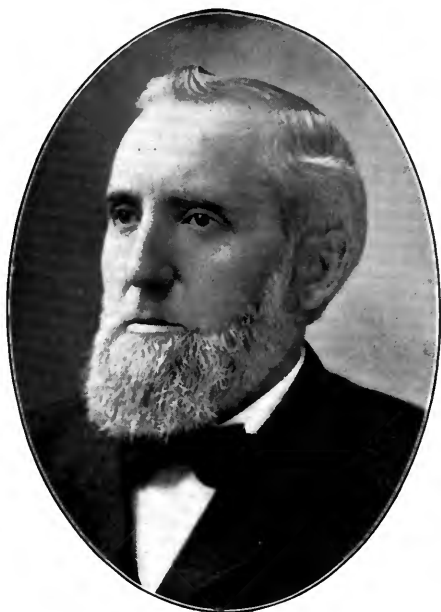


MRS. DAVID C. COOK









HON. WILLIAM GROTE  
Trustee and Vice President of the Board, 1898-

## CHAPTER NINE

### The Present Academy Board

President, Hon. G. H. Lord.

Vice-President, Hon. Wm. Grote.

THE Academy began its work of education with a Briton born and bred. Ever since that time it has been hospitable to foreign talent, numbering among its Trustees and Instructors men and women who were not American by birth or education. Our cities are cosmopolitan, and our schools and colleges have always been so.

Mr. Grote is a native German, but an American citizen. His early life and interests, however nourished by an older soil, have grown and developed in our new land to large proportions. Endowed with strong qualities of mind, which he has not neglected to cultivate, they have insured his success among men. But nature, as wise as she is beautiful, implanted in this man's mind love for God and man, and he becomes friend and almoner of the church and of the school; strives for what will benefit the public and labors for the good of all.

Mr. Grote has had civic and other honors thrust upon him, but with his success he is unspoiled and is best represented by the terms: a good man and a most useful citizen.

The Academy is honored by Mr. Grote's valuable service.

"Ich Dien", I serve, is a royal motto, and worthy of him.

Mr. James Blackburn, 1902, though a busy man, is known for his excellent ideas. As an Academy Trustee his suggestions have been helpful and often have been found practicable and desirable when developed.

Mr. George E. Cook, 1903, gives one the impression of a thoroughly enterprising young business man, ready to extend a hand to one in need, to sing a heartsome song or to do anything occasion

or situation may demand. He is an enthusiastic worker and very acceptable to the distinguished body of which he is a member.

Ora Pelton, M. D., 1902, deeply in earnest for the welfare of the community in which he lives, has been for years a patron and friend of Elgin Academy, giving it his hearty support and sanction and rejoicing in its every advantage. As a Trustee he is faithful and generous.

Mr. Andrew Rovelstadt, 1903, is one of the foreign-born who holds an honored place in Elgin for his integrity and high moral character. He is a discreet and careful judge, and is in every way fitted for the position he occupies on the Academy Board.

Mr. W. D. Kimball, 1903, a wide-awake man, thoroughly interested in civic affairs and matters of training and education, brings a fresh and vital spirit into the meetings of the Trustees. As a secretary, he is highly satisfactory.

Rev. J. T. Ladd, D. D., theologian, scholar, citizen, trustee of great interests and a leader in advanced thought of the day, he has been of the greatest assistance in the adjustment of Academy affairs with the Northwestern University. He appears to have been the connecting link between the two institutions; and as he is an able adviser there is no limit to the hope of still greater good that he may direct.

Dr. Edmund James, former President of the Northwestern University, was a member of the Board until his departure to the State University. Acting President Holgate, of the Northwestern University, supplied the place of the President on the Academy Board.

Abram W. Harris, L. L. D., the newly elected President of the Northwestern, is now a member of the Academy Board.

No one of all its numerous benefactors ever entered into Academy work with more heartsome earnestness or enthusiasm, than has Mrs. May Larkin Hoornbeek, daughter of Mr. C. H. Larkin. Her generous hand distributes benefits, delightful to contemplate, while she honors her father by continuing and increasing his benefactions. Intelligent and executive, Mrs. Hoornbeek will reflect credit upon the cause for which she labors. In every way she is loyal to the old School, which she so dearly loves and in which she was herself a student.



ORA LEVANT PELTON, M. D.  
Trustee, 1902-





GEORGE EZRA COOK  
Trustee, 1903 -





Mr. John A. Waterman, 1906, is a new member of the present Board. His reputation in the community for "nothing but what is excellent," and his interest in all questions of human progress warrants the expectation of an additional force in the plans for the Greater Elgin Academy.

Mr. Charles Ripley Hopson has been a most acceptable Treasurer of the Board during several years, although not an active member. He was a student under Mr. Sears and graduated in the class of 1876.

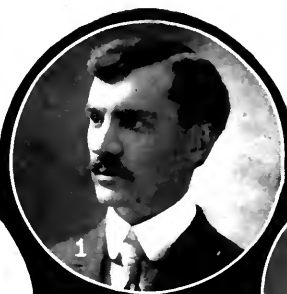
The Academy is indebted to the Trustees for their hearty concurrence in the publication of this History of its Fifty Years.



"GRANDFATHER"

### **The Faculty of 1906**

1. ROBERT A. CAMPBELL, B. Sc.  
Science, 1898 -
2. AGNES B. OLIVER, A. B.  
Teacher of Expression, 1905-
3. OLIVER JOEL PENROSE  
M. Acct's, Commercial Department, 1904 -
4. FLORENCE S. RAYMOND, B. S.  
Science and Mathematics, 1894-1899.  
Mathematics, 1899 -
5. PEARL A. DUNBAR  
Preparatory Department, 1904-
6. MRS. LOTTA H. JAMES,  
Shorthand and Typewriting, 1902-1906.
7. LAURA T. ULLRICK, A. B., M. A.,  
History, and Librarian, 1904 -
8. SARAH A. PRATT, A. B.,  
English and History, 1894-1899.  
English, 1899 -
9. FRED MAICHELE,  
German and Latin, 1905 -
10. EYVIN M. SCHEFLOW, B. S.,  
Mechanical Drawing, Night School, 1895 -
11. GEORGE NEWTON SLEIGHT, A. B., B. Pd.  
Principal, 1898 -  
Instructor in Greek, 1898 -
12. BESSIE M. COSTELLO,  
Shorthand and Typewriting, Night School,  
1898-'99, 1900 -









ABRAM WINEGARDNER HARRIS, Sc. D., L.L.D.  
President Northwestern University  
Trustee Elgin Academy, 1906-

## CHAPTER TEN

### Academy Student Life

**I**F THIS is not a family history, it has its characteristics, viz.: solicitude for healthy conditions, pride in the success of every member of the household and enjoyment in relating hardships now happily past.

Academy life is much the same everywhere. It may be called a pleasant variety of student life—the opening door.

There is always a diversity of gifts to be found in an academy, and a good share of that kind of intelligence which makes the back bone of the state and nation. It is the common-sense kind, that day by day and year by year, does the work of “all creation.” Ambition, determination, splendid purpose, good work and poor work, fair-play and no play at all, may be discovered in all academies.

There is spirit also in an academy: Class spirit, potent as a spell; and the academy spirit, more or less noisy and belligerent; and the home spirit, which, infusing its own happy nature into associates, and surroundings, transforms the place into a home club. Good academicians develop all these varieties of spirit and evoke them not infrequently.

The impression that a visitor receives, by a visit to the School in our Academy, is a favorable one. The voices of the students are clear, the faces have a happy look, and erect forms and easy movements indicate the benefit of athletic training.

All is well.

#### Old Students.

There are interesting reports of Academy students during these fifty years. The professions have been well represented by them, the law most numerous. In the list of names, there are Honorable Judges of the Superior, the Supreme and the Appellate Courts of the State, and every other court except those of the United States.

The clergy are distinguished by bishops, right reverends, foreign missionaries, pastors, reformers and evangelists.

There are physicians, women as well as men, of all the schools; country doctors and careful surgeons and surgeon generals.

There are authors, editors, teachers, artists, musicians, legislators, farmers, bankers, merchants, importers, manufacturers, inventors, military officers, captains of industry, college presidents, and a thousand other callings represented by the boys and girls that went forth years ago to find waiting their places in which to work.

Beside these, there are unheralded, men and women, once old students, who have modified opinion, established confidence and educated schools and people in their own localities.

There are many who have heroically performed the un-heroic tasks—honor to them all. If there have been failures, name them not; repeat the successes, remember the achievements and forget not the heroes.

In 1903 honorary diplomas were conferred upon Judge Ranstead and Mr. F. B. Perkins (deferred graduation); a diploma also upon honorable G. P. Lord, an acknowledgment for long and continued service and devotion to Academy interests.

#### **The Library.**

The library began with the books of reference purchased with the gift of \$200 from Mr. Thomas L. Morgan, one of the Trustees of 1856-'65.

Small collections and single volumes have been donated from time to time and some have been purchased in later years.

A bequest of \$500 was made in 1899 by Miss Ellen Hinsdell, to establish a memorial library in the Academy, to her father; the collection consists of four hundred volumes, rich in history and literature. It is called the A. B. Hinsdell Memorial Library.

A choice collection of three hundred and sixty books, relating chiefly to ancient classics, was given to the Academy in 1901, by Professor J. Addison Knight, of Rochelle, Ill. He has added several important volumes recently to his collection. This is the J. Addison Knight classical library. The entire Academy library now consists of over two thousand volumes and is constantly increasing.





REV. JOSEPH THING LADD, D. D.  
Trustee, 1903 -



**Special Gifts.**

There have been many gifts from citizens and friends from time to time, "for the good of the cause," that speak eloquently of a common sentiment for the institution. These gifts can be acknowledged here only en masse, but no less sincerely are they noted.

Mrs. Gail Borden, mother of Mr. A. B. Church, gave \$1,000 to the Academy in 1883. No gift was ever more gratefully received.

Mrs. Harriet Campbell, in 1902, made a bequest of \$650 to the institution that she and her husband had loved and cherished for many years.

The Woman's Club of Elgin, donated to the Academy in 1888, \$2,200, to be used toward obtaining a heating plant; they also fitted up a kitchen in the Manual Training building for the teaching of Domestic Science, and employed an instructor—Miss Anita Bowen (Mrs. Byington.)

**Gifts from Estates.**

There is still an unrealized sum for the Academy of several thousand dollars from Mrs. Lord's estate. This is in addition to the \$20,000 spent during the last fifteen years, and the Lord bequest of \$40,000, already turned over to the Northwestern University.

The estate of Judge Lovell, through the kindness of Mr. L. N. Seaman, paid over to the Academy \$1,000, the sum in advance of a ten year's subscription. This money was appropriated to the fitting up of the laboratories in Lovell Science Hall.

**Stock.**

The purchase of Academy Stock by hundreds of citizens, the systematic subscriptions of many others, have made possible the improvements now apparent in the institution.

Among the systematic donors of the present time, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Cook, stand at the head of the list. Their charities are well-known, but it is the spirit of them that is worthy emulation, for it is the spirit of the Master which they seek to express in good deeds.

Soon after the affiliation of 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Cook opened their home and gave a splendid reception in honor of President and Mrs. James, of the Northwestern University, Professor and Mrs. Sleight and Mr. and Mrs. Lord. It was to introduce to Elgin the new relations

of the Academy by its recent union with the Northwestern University.

It was an occasion long to be remembered, not only for the gracious hospitality of its host and hostess, but for the gratifying recognition of long and arduous work finally achieved.

#### **Valued Relics.**

The Academy cherishes a fine old Bible bearing on its cover in tarnished gilt letters, "January 1, 1857." And on its first page may be read the names of 107 students of that date—the names of students of fifty years ago. This volume is priceless as a memento of the opening year.

The old bell was hung in the spring of 1857. More than once it has been tongue-tied by mischievous youth.

It has rung with all its strength the alarm for fire, and for the Nation's birthday it has pealed lustily. It has tolled the knell for our dead soldiers. It rung merrily for the first wedding of the Academy with Chicago University and again upon its second union with the Northwestern.

And now let it ring in these days of its Golden Jubilee, heartily and cordially, a welcome to everybody, to the old and for the new.

The institution is also in possession of an autograph letter of James A. Garfield, 1860.

There are also many interesting mementoes of early Academy days on exhibition during the Jubilee.

#### **Conclusion.**

The Elgin Academy is "a truly" F. F. (First Family). Its charter of 1839 settles its claim to priority as an institution of higher learning in the Northwest.

It was the hope of its founder that Elgin might become a center for an intelligent and cultivated people. He saw the educational needs and the difficulties of defining them.

A preparatory school was a necessity, but higher learning was the heart of the plan. Manual training provided for a want, sure to be required. All these ideas were practicable for an academy, hence its selection, but its provisions are broad enough for any structure, the limitations mark its freedom.



MRS. MAY LARKIN HOORNBECK  
Trustee, 1903-



The Academy was a thought and a plan for the highest practical good. That is the corner stone upon which its foundations were laid, upon which every effort of its fifty years rests; and upon which the results have been obtained which are bringing greater opportunities for students, greater power for their instruction, the highest practical good and bringing in its train greater usefulness,—this is the Greater Academy.

Behold this temple where it stands, like Mount Zion, “beautiful for situation,” still honest, simple, strong and,—as it holds the spirit of highest good,—enduring.

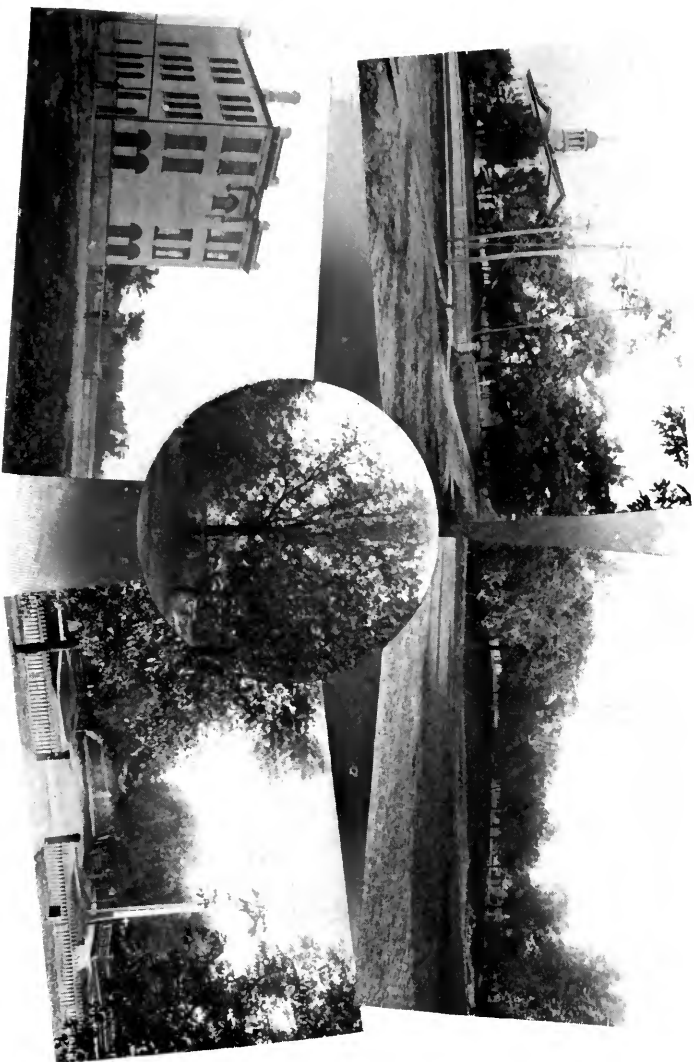
“What is excellent, as God lives, is permanent.”



THE OLD CALL BELL USED  
IN THE WEST ROOM

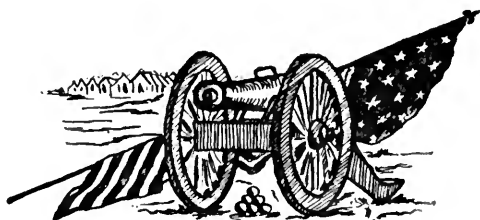






ACADEMY GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS





## The Academy Roll of Honor

Academy Students Who Took Part  
in the Civil War

THE call for volunteers came to Elgin April 15th, the day after the firing of Sumter's gun. One hundred and twenty-four brave Academy boys enrolled themselves under the flag to go and fight the battles of their country.

Those heroes marched away. And some returned no more; and some returned to die; and still others of the band returned to lie beneath the turf on the hill that overlooks the valley. But wherever the resting places of those sleepers are:

“With wounds and honorable scars  
Low in glory's lap they lie,  
Though they fell, they fell like stars,  
Streaming splendor from the sky.”

**The Living**

ADAMS, J. Q.	KIMBALL, W. H.
BALDWIN, H. S.	LOVELL, THOMAS
BRADEN, CLARK	McCLURE, CHAS.
(Principal)	McQUEEN, JNO. A.
BRINKERHOFF, JACOB	MAGEE, E. W.
BRINTNALL, H. C.	MANN, H. P.
BROOKS, E. M.	MANN, EUGENE,
BROOKS, M. W.	MILLER, J. H.
BRYDGES, WM. H.	MORGAN, FREEMAN
(Principal)	PERKINS, F. B.
BUELL, C. E.	PERRY, E. D.
CAMBRIDGE, E. A.	RAYMOND, F. W.
CHAFFEE, D. B.	ROWE, E. M.
COCHRANE JNO. M.	SAUNDERS, H. K.
CUMMINGS, E. A.	SAYER, WARREN M.
DUMSER, J. S.	SCHAFER, W. C.
DUNCAN, WM.	SCOTT, J. F.
DUNKLEY, F. S.	SHERMAN, GEO. D.
GAGE, WM.	SMAILES, WM.
GRAFF, ALFRED	STONE, ARTHUR
GRIGGS, E. H.	
HAMMOND, EDWIN	SYLLA, WM. F.
HASKELL, F. W.	TAZEWELL, FRANCIS
HASKELL, HIRAM L.	THOMS, A. P.
HEWITT, JNO. A.	TODD, W. F.
HINSDALL, O. A.	TOWNSEND, M. S.
HOWARD, EVERETT	WALKER, WM. E.
HUBBARD, H. W.	WALLIN, CHAS. EDWIN
HUNTLEY, W. S.	WALLIN, A. C.
JAYNE, GEO. D.	WARD, J. A.
KELLEY, L. M.	WATSON, D. L.
KENDALL, HOLMES	WELLES, HENRY
KENDALL, FRANK	WILSON, W. H.
WOLAVER, J. H.	WOODARD, H. D.

**Those Who Were Killed or Died in the Service**

ADAMS, M. W.	HASSAN, H. C.
ANDERSON, SAMUEL	HOAGLAND, THEO. M.
ANDREWS, A. G.	HOLGATE, D. L.
BARKER, E. V.	PERRY, A. C.
BROWN, CHAS. C.	ROCKWELL, F. S.
CORRON, J. M.	TOURTELOTT, L. J.
DEMPSTER, WM. J.	TUCK, W. H.
FREEMAN, BARNA F.	WEBSTER, BENJ. F.
GILBERT, GEO. P.	

**The Dead**

BARROWS, CHAS. A.	LYND, WM. R.
BUCK, EDGAR D.	LYND, A. C.
BEYER, WILLIAM	PARMELY, CHAUNCEY
BRADFORD, SIDNEY	PERRY, HIRAM O.
CAMPBELL, M. V. B.	PERRY, PARKER
COLE, M. B.	PERRY, LAFAYETTE
DAVIDSON, JAMES G.	PRATT, J. C.
FARNUM, E. C.	RAYMOND, F. A.
FIFIELD, WALTER	RENWICK, GEO. L.
GIFFORD, FULTON	ROBINSON, J. W.
(Teacher)	ROWLAND, D. C. B.
GILBERT, FRANK T.	SALISBURY, GEO. W.
HARVEY, C. M.	SALISBURY, L. D.
HASSAN, B. F.	SCHOONHOVEN, G. W.
HILL, CHAS. H.	SMITH, L. H.
HUNTLEY, CHAS. C.	SMITH, ROMAIN
KENDALL, GEO. S.	SPALDING, J. A.
KEYES, ADDISON A.	SYLLA, EDWIN H.
LOVELL, E. C.	TICKNER, L. P.
LYMAN, W. A.	WANZER, SIDNEY L.
LYNCH, WILLIAM F.	WESTERN, HENRY
LYNCH, DAVID	



JOHN A. WATERMAN  
Trustee, 1906-



WILLIAM C. BRIDGE, M. D.  
Trustee, 1902-1906





## **The Charter of 1839**

### **An Act to Incorporate the Elgin Academy**

§ 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That Solomon Hamilton, Colton Knox, George McClure, Vincent S. Lovell, Luther Herrick, Reuben Jenne, and Burgess Truesdell be and they are hereby created a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of "The Trustees of the Elgin Academy," and by that style and name to have perpetual succession; the said institution being designed to promote the cause of education and improvement in literature, and to be located at or near the town of Elgin, in Kane county.

§ 2. The corporation hereby created shall have power to make contracts; to sue and be sued; to plead and be impleaded; to grant and receive by its corporate name, and purchase and sell property, real and personal, in all lawful ways; to manage and dispose of the same; may have a common seal; and may make by-laws for its regulation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States or of the State of Illinois.

§ 3. The said institution may, whenever it shall be deemed expedient by the board of trustees, connect manual labor with literary instruction, by agriculture or mechanical operations, and for that purpose may hold land not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres.

§ 4. A majority of the trustees shall form a quorum to do business, and shall have authority, from time to time, to prescribe the course of studies to be pursued; the amount of labor to be required of the pupils; to fix the rate of tuition and other academic expenses; to appoint a preceptor and such other officers and assistants as they may consider the interest of the institution requires.

§ 5. The trustees shall have authority to connect with said institution a female department; to appoint or employ a prin-

cipal and assistant instructress; and may connect with it such operations of suitable female labor as they may deem advisable to conduct it on the manual labor principle.

§ 6. Two-thirds of the board of trustees for the time being may at any time add to the number of the board, fill any vacancy which may occur in their number from death, removal, resignation or otherwise: Provided, that the board shall at no time exceed ten in number.

§ 7. The said institution shall be open to all religious denominations, and the profession of no particular religious faith shall be required, either of officers or pupils.

§ 8. This act shall be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 22, 1839.

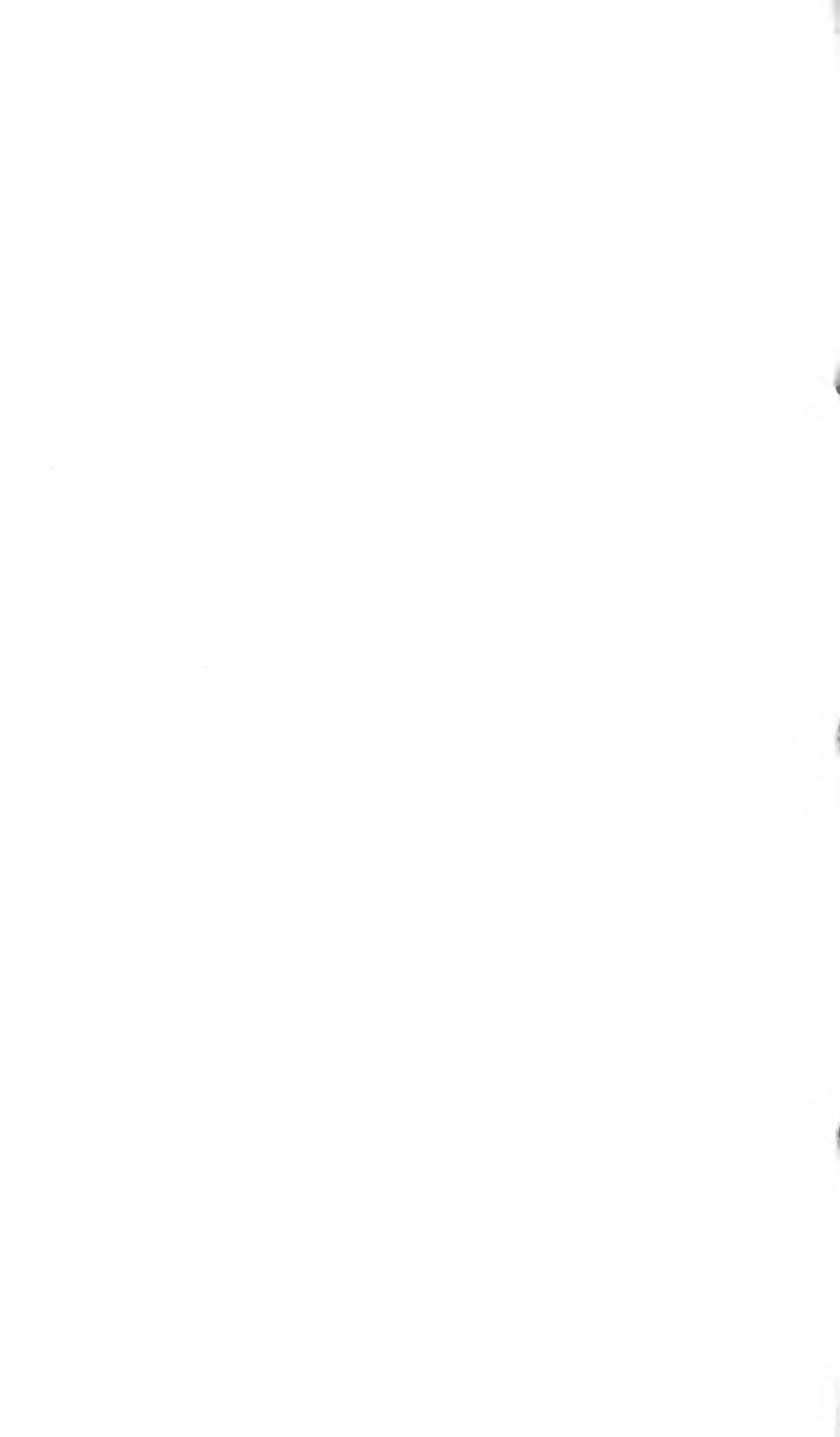


JOHN MARTIN BLACKBURN  
Trustee, 1903 -





ANDREW ROVELSTAD  
Trustee, 1903 -



## **The Amended Charter of 1855**

**An Act to Alter or Amend an Act Entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Elgin Academy," Approved Feb. 22, A. D., 1839.**

Corporators—style.] § 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That section 1st be and the same is hereby so amended as to read that "B. W. Raymond, B. Truesdell, A. J. Joslyn, Wm. C. Kimball, O. Davidson, M. C. Town, A. Adams, Solomon Hamilton, John Hill and Joseph Tefft and their associates be and they are hereby created a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The President and Trustees of the Elgin Academy," and by that name and style may have perpetual succession—the said institution to be located in the city of Elgin, county of Kane and State of Illinois.

General Powers.] § 2. That section 2 be and the same is hereby so amended as to read: "The corporation hereby created shall have power to make contracts, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to grant and receive by their corporate name, to accept of donation, acquire by purchase or to sell and convey property, real, personal or mixed, in all lawful ways; to use, manage, employ and dispose of all such property or money belonging to said corporation as to them shall seem best for the promotion of the objects and interests of said corporation; to have a common seal, to alter the same at pleasure; to make and establish all such by-laws and regulations for the management of said institution as may be necessary and proper and not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State or of the United States, and to confer on such persons as may be worthy such academical or honorary degrees as are usually conferred by similar institutions in like cases."

Stock—transferable.] § 3. That section 3 be and the same is hereby so amended as to read: "The stock of said company shall consist of shares of fifty dollars each, to be subscribed for in the manner that the trustees shall direct, and which shall be deemed personal property, and shall be transferable on the books

of said corporation in such manner as the board of trustees may direct or prescribe. The capital stock shall not exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars. The said corporation may, whenever it shall be deemed expedient by the board of trustees, connect manual labor with literary instruction, by agriculture or mechanical operations, and for that purpose may hold land, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres."

Election of Trustees.] § 4. That section 4 be and the same is hereby so amended as to read: "On the first Monday of April, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, there shall be elected by the stockholders, or such of them as may be present, twelve trustees, to manage the affairs of the corporation. Four of said trustees shall be elected for one year and four for two years and four for three years; and on the first Monday of April in each and every year there shall be elected, as aforesaid, four trustees to fill the vacancy of those whose term shall expire. Notice of said election shall be given for ten days, either by publishing the same in a newspaper published in the city of Elgin (one insertion) or by posting up notices in three public places in said city. The trustees of said corporation shall have authority to prescribe and regulate the course of studies to be pursued; the amount of labor to be required of the pupils in said academy; to fix the rate of tuition and other academical expenses; to appoint instructors and such other officers and agents as may be necessary in managing the concerns of the institution; to define their duties; to fix their compensation; to displace or remove them; to erect necessary buildings; to purchase books, chemical and philosophical apparatus and other suitable means of instruction; to make rules for the general regulation of the conduct of the students; to suspend or expel any student whose habits are idle or vicious or whose moral character is bad, or who refuses to obey the rules of the academy."

Female department.] § 5. The trustees shall have power and authority to connect with said institution a female department, to appoint or employ a principal and assistant instructress, and may connect with it such operations of female labor as they may deem advisable to conduct it on the manual labor principle.



President.] § 6. That section 6 be and the same is hereby so amended as to read: "The board of trustees, at their first meeting after each election, shall choose one of their number as president and another as secretary of the board, and some person as treasurer. Said board of trustees may meet for the transaction of business as often as the president shall direct, or on request of any two of said trustees, or at such time as the board may adjourn its meetings from time to time to meet. Any five of said trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The treasurer and all other agents, when required, before entering upon the duties of their office or appointments, shall give bonds for the security of the corporation, upon such conditions and in such penal sum and with such securities as the board of trustees shall approve. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the stockholders and trustees, and cause the notice of the annual election to be given as required in section 4."

Open to all denominations.] § 7. The said institution shall be open to all religious denominations, and the profession of no particular religious faith shall be required, either of officers or pupils.

Amendment.] § 8. The above named persons who are trustees appointed under and by virtue of the charter approved February 22, 1839, to which this is an amendment, and all of their officers and agents and all bargains and contracts made by them, and all subscriptions obtained to the stock of said corporation, together with all other acts done by them as such trustees, are hereby confirmed and made as binding on all the parties interested as if such bargains, contracts, subscriptions and other acts had been made after the passage of this act.

Term of office.] § 9. The above named persons shall continue in office as trustees of said academy until their successors are elected and qualified, in accordance with the provisions of this charter; and all their acts, either by themselves or by their agents or officers, and all donations and subscriptions received or taken by them, shall be as binding on all parties interested as if they had been made after the election and qualification of the

trustees under this act. The above named persons or a majority of them shall give ten days' notice of the place and time of holding the first election of trustees, and shall preside as judges of said election, and shall certify the same, which certificate shall be filed in the office of the secretary of the board of trustees, when elected or qualified, and shall be sufficient evidence of the election of said board of trustees.

§ 10. This act shall be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 14, 1855.

WILLIAM DEAN KIMBALL  
Trustee and Secretary  
of the Board,  
1903 -



CHARLES RIPLEY HOPSON  
Treasurer, 1903 -



## Trustees of Elgin Academy 1839-1906

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
HON. AUGUSTUS ADAMS	1854-1857
C. K. ANDERSON	1843-1854
HENRY BIERMAN	1869-1889
J. M. BLACKBURN	1903 -
I. C. BOSWORTH	1868 -1888
W. E. BOSWORTH	1898-1903
WILLIAM C. BRIDGE, M. D.	1902-1906
REV. JAMES CHALMERS, Ph. D., L. L. D., D. D.	1902-1903
A. B. CHURCH	1889-1902
	Treasurer, 1892-1902
EBEN F. COLBY	1855-1860
GEORGE EZRA COOK	1903 -
ORLANDO DAVIDSON	1854-1899, Secretary
	Treasurer, 1865-1888
REV. AUSTEN K. de BLOIS, Ph. D., D. D.	1902-1903
AURORA B. FISH	1863-1865
JAMES T. GIFFORD	1843-1850
HON. WILLIAM GROTE	1898 -
SOLOMON HAMILTON	1839-1855
ABRAM WINEGARDNER HARRIS, Sc. D., L. L. D.,	1896-
GEORGE P. HARVEY,	1860-1863, 1865-1868
LUTHER HERRICK	1839-1854
JOHN HILL	1854-1863
ASAH BEMIS HINSDALL	1865-1884
WILLIAM H. HINTZE	1893-1898
MRS. MAY LARKIN HOORNBEEK	1904 -
WILLIAM G. HUBBARD	1866-1883
EDMUND JAMES JAMES, Ph. D., L. L. D.	1903-1904
REUBEN JENNE	1839-1843

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
REV. ADONIRAM JUDSON JOSLYN	1854-1868
WILLIAM C. KIMBALL	1843-1875
WILLIAM DEAN KIMBALL	1903-
COLTON KNOX	1839-1855
REV. JOSEPH THING LADD, D.D.	1903-
CYRUS H. LARKIN	1884-1888
BENJAMIN F. LAWRENCE	1868-1872
HON. GEORGE P. LORD	1885-
	President of the Board 1894-
MRS. MARY E. CARPENTER LORD	1889-1903
JUDGE EDWARD COULTAS LOVELL	1876-1902
VINCENT S. LOVELL	1839-1841
GENERAL GEORGE McCLURE	1839-1861
THOMAS L. MORGAN	1856-1865
RODOLPHUS W. PADELFOED	1865-1868
ORA LEVANT PELTON, M. D.	1902-
FRANCIS B. PERKINS	1890-1903
MRS. EUGENIA A. RANSTEAD	1889-1903
HON. BENJAMIN W. RAYMOND	1854-1883
ANDREW ROVELSTAD	1903-
JOHN A. RUSSELL	1902-1903
THOMAS SCHOONHOVEN	1857-1863
CHARLES J. SCHULTZ	1890-1893
MRS. AMOS G. SEARS	1888-1889
REV. JOSEPH H. SELDEN, D. D.	1893-1901
HENRY SHERMAN	1855-1893
MAJOR GEORGE D. SHERMAN	1893-1898
JOSEPH TEFFT, M. D.	1843-1888
	President of the Board 1843-1888
MORRIS C. TOWN	1854-1892
	Treasurer, 1856 and 1865
BURGESS TRUESDELL	1839-1856
	Secretary of the Board, 1839-1854
LATTIMER S. TYLER	1863-1865
E. DUNBAR WALDRON	1884-1902
	Treasurer, 1888-1891
ANDREW J. WALDRON	1855-1866

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NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE
JOHN A. WATERMAN	1906 -
GENERAL ELIJAH WILCOX	1843-1854
GENERAL JOHN SHULER WILCOX	1872 - President of the Board, 1890-1894
JUDGE SYLVANUS WILCOX	1865-1890 President of the Board, 1889-1890
LOUIS H. YARWOOD	1863-1865 Treasurer, 1864-1865

## The Principals

ROBERT BLENKIRON, A. B., A. M., 1856-1858, and the Spring Term of 1860.

JAMES SYLLA, A. M., 1858 to Spring Term of 1860.

CLARK BRADEN, A. B., 1860-1863.

C. C. WHEELER, 1863 to Spring Term of 1865.

I. H. NUTTING, M. D., Spring Term of 1865 and Fall Term of 1866.

WILLIAM H. BRYDGES, Winter and Spring terms of 1866.

B. G. CILLEY, A. B., 1866-1867.

ALFRED S. BARRY, 1867-1870.

AMOS G. SEARS, A. M., 1870-1881.

ALEXANDER GIBSON WILSON, D. D., 1881-1883.

J. ADOLPH SCHMITZ, A. M., 1883-1886.

NATHAN THOMPSON, 1886-1890.

A. M. MATTOON, 1890-1891.

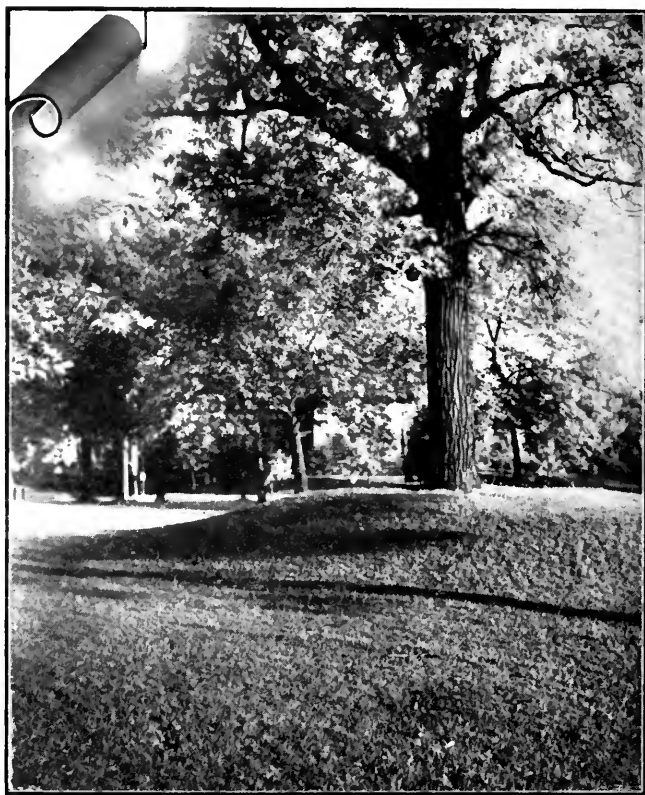
ALFRED GARDNER WELCH, A. M., 1891-1897.

GEORGE PETER BACON, A. M., 1897-1898.

GEORGE NEWTON SLEIGHT, A. B., B. Pd., 1898-







SENIOR KNOLL  
Opposite west end of Academy Building

## List of the Graduates of the Class of 1906

### Academic Department

IRENE ELIZABETH BALLARD Latin-Scientific	ROBERT MARK LADD Modern-Elective
MERVYNA BARBARA DOLSEN Latin-Scientific	ALICE BLANCH LATHROP Modern-Elective
ZORA ETHEL FAIRCHILD Modern-Elective	LEONARD GEORGE PIERCE Modern-Elective
MARY EDNA GAGE Modern-Elective	MARY LOUISE PRINDLE Latin-Scientific
ELSA HAEGER Modern-Elective	CLARA MARIE SCHMIDT Modern-Elective
ROSE MARIE HERRICK Modern-Elective	MARY CATHERINE SKONING Classical

### Business Department Commercial Course

WILLIAM J. FREUND	PAUL E. MCKENZIE
MARY EDNA GAGE	RAY COVEY SCHOONHOVEN
JOHN H. KLINGBERG	HARRY C. SMITH

### Shorthand Class

ANITA BLANK	FRANCES HAZEL ROBINSON
FRED EARL LAWRENCE	CARL THEODORE STAIB
MARY ELIZABETH NASON	IRIS TYRRELL
EMILY STEELE WILSON	

### Night School

ELROY A. RYAN	ALMA MARIE HEINE
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## On the Banks of the Old River Fox

**M**Y FATHER sent me to old Elgin,  
 To that town where they make the pocket  
 clocks,  
 And so I settled down in that town of watch  
 renown,  
 On the Banks of the old river Fox.

CHORUS:

On the banks of the old river Fox, my boys,  
 The Academy ever more shall stand,  
 For has she not stood since the time of the flood,  
 And we hail her the best in the land.

In foot-ball they used me rather roughly,  
 And they gave some terribly hard knocks;  
 And they shook me so about  
 That they turned me inside out,  
 On the banks of the old River Fox.—CHO.

In the mornings we listened to some lectures,  
 In the evenings we listened to some talks,  
 And then we would sing,  
 And dance the Highland fling,  
 On the banks of the old River Fox.—CHO.

It was there I made my social entree,  
 And, Oh, how I spent the hard-earned rocks,  
 And by my cunning art  
 Slew many a maiden's heart,  
 On the banks of the old River Fox.—CHO.

\*We are now a junior of Northwestern,  
 To our fold at once the country flocks,  
 And we'll grow and grow and grow,  
 While the waters onward flow  
 'Twixt the banks of the old River Fox.—CHO

\*Added in 1903.

### \*The New Academy Song

**O**THER schools may think that they're the best;  
But we'll show them that we are doubly blest;  
For our faculty good and kind trustees—  
None better can be found on land or seas.

#### CHORUS:

Hurrah for the school on the hill,  
Where the scholars all work with a will!  
For fifty long years she has stood,  
And for fifty more she is good.  
With Northwestern we've taken our stand,  
And with her kind, helping hand,  
We'll march at the head of the line,  
And by our deeds we will outshine  
Through all the ages.

In ball and tennis we excel,  
And in our "gym" do just as well;  
And, if in class we sometimes flunk,  
You need not think it is from lack of spunk.

When together we come each morn at ten,  
We fear we will get a lecture then;  
But our fears "Prof" oft times turns aside  
And we learn instead that we have been his pride.

Oh, the years may come and the years may go,  
But our staunch old Academy yet will grow,  
And with every swiftly passing year  
She will indeed to us become more dear.

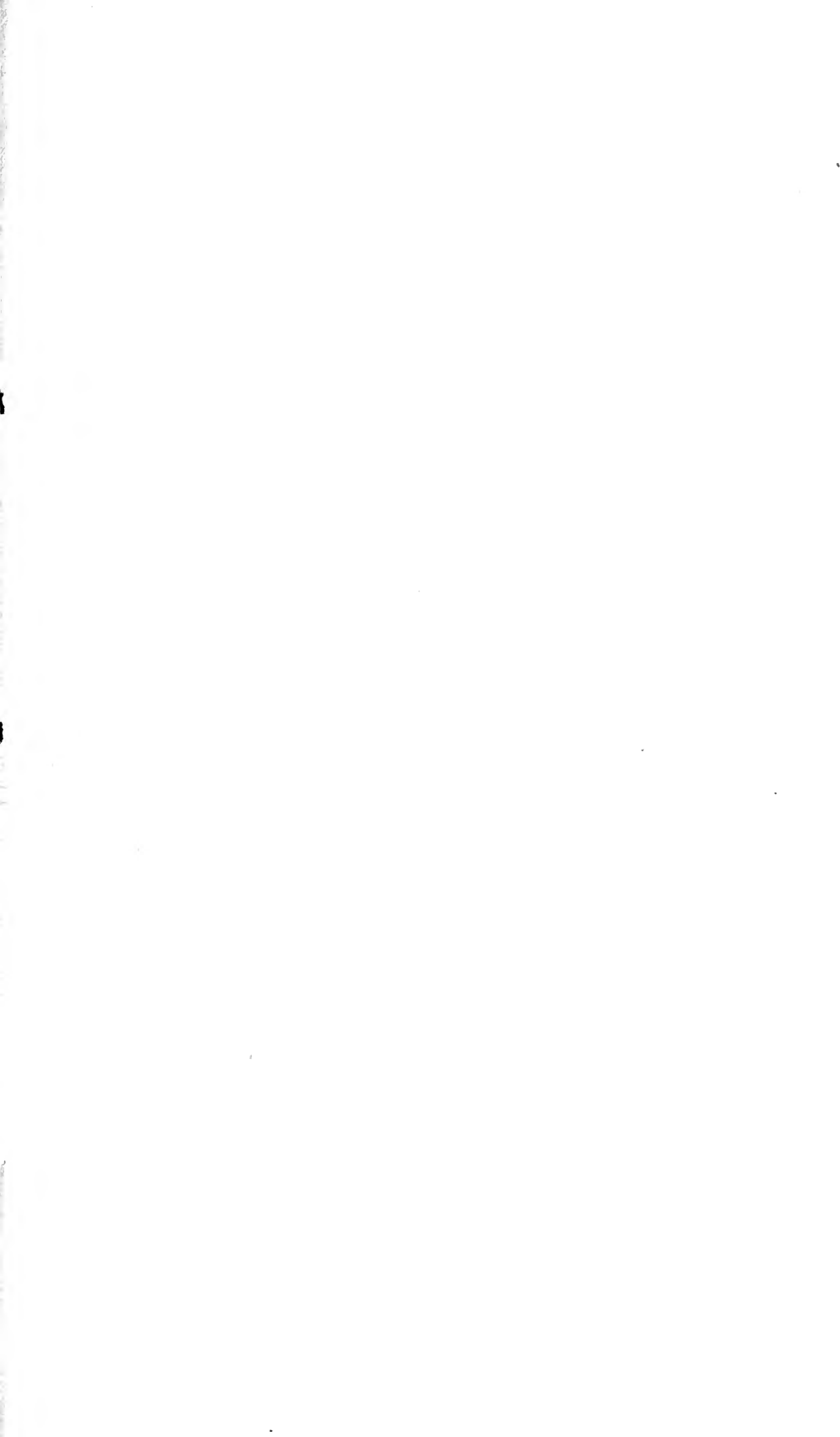
#### CHORUS:

For she is the gem of the West,  
The school that we all love the best!  
For fifty long years she has stood,  
And for fifty more she is good.  
With Northwestern we've taken our stand,  
And with her kind, helping hand,  
We'll march at the head of the line,  
And by our deeds we will outshine  
Through all the ages.

By M. L. C. and M. W., Elgin Academy.

\* To the tune of the Stars and Stripes.





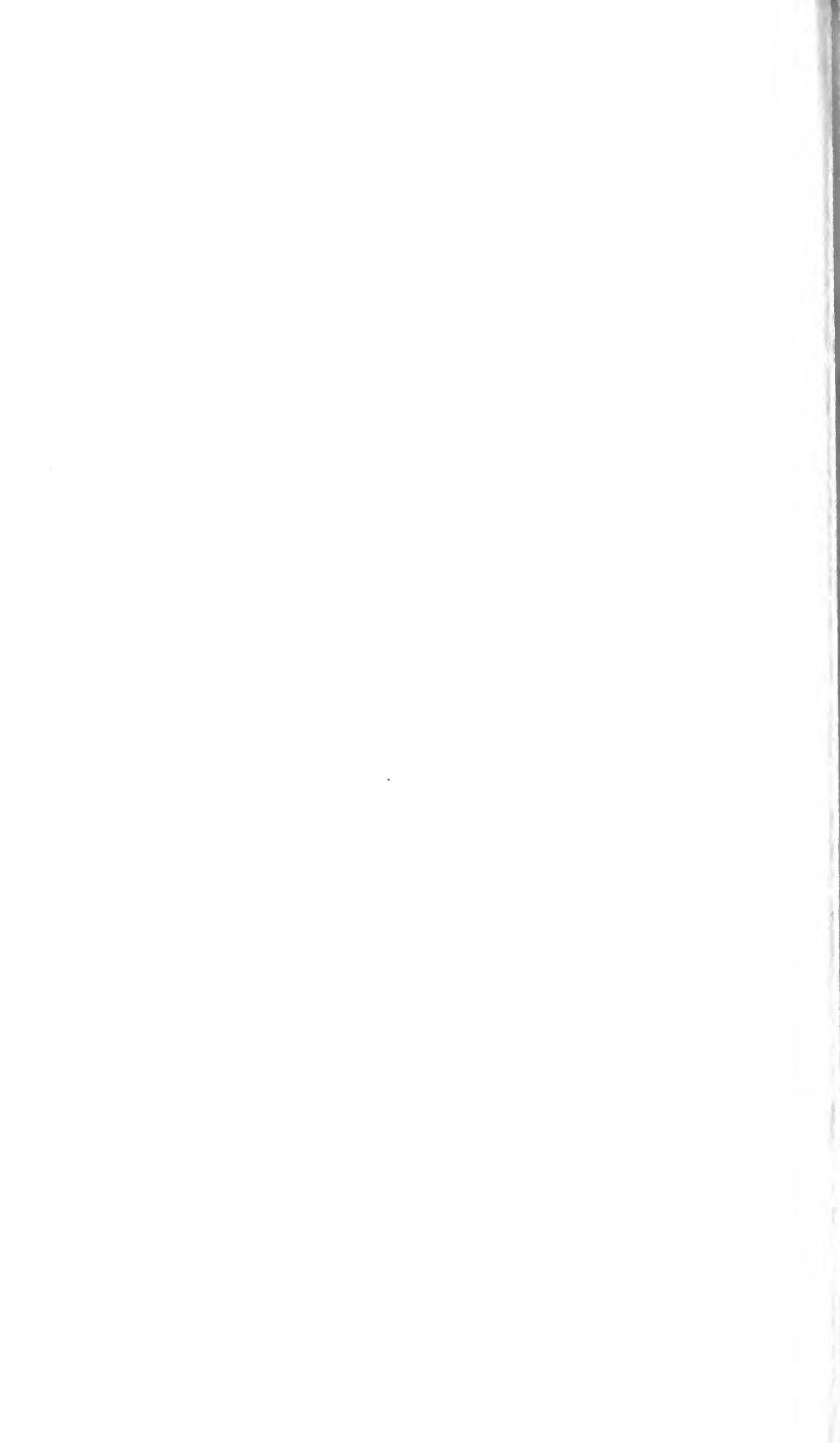














UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA  
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A HISTORY OF ELGIN ACADEMY OF NORTHWESTE



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